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*The Abridged
Treasury of Prayers*



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In
Remembrance

THE ABRIDGED
" "
TREASURY OF PRAYERS

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PREPARATORY PRAYERS

1

For True Devotion

O LORD, I come upon Thy will and command, bringing all my petitions, even those very things that hinder and would prevent my coming to Thee—my sins that trouble me greatly, and I ask Thee to remove and forgive them. Amen.

2

For True Worthiness in Prayer

O LORD, Thine honor and Thy service, which tends to Thy praise, I have in view, when now humbly praying; therefore, O dear Lord, do not look upon my unworthiness, but upon my great need of Thy help: Thou art the true and only help of sinners. Thy honor is to be advanced by my prayer; and even as I cannot do without Thine aid, so Thou canst give and wilt give to those who ask Thee.—Amen. Amen.

A Prayer of Comfort with Respect to Sin and Unworthiness

It matters not what kind of a person I am, for though I am a sinner, I know my Lord Jesus Christ is not, He is ever just and gracious. So I will confidently call and cry to Him, not considering other questions; for now is not the time to ask whether I be elected or not. This one thing I feel, that I need help, so I come and seek it in all humility.—Dear Lord God, the Canaanite woman was a Gentile; she could conclude, yea, could hardly help but conclude that she was not elected. If now she approaches Thee and does not permit such thoughts to prevent her prayer, I shall do the same and say: Lord, I come before Thee and am in need of one thing and another; whence else shall I obtain help but from Thee in heaven, through Thine Only Son, my Savior, Christ Jesus? Amen.

A Prayer Based on God's Command and Promise

DEAR LORD GOD, Thou knowest I do not presume to come before Thee of mine own self, or relying on my own worthiness, for, when looking to

this, I dare not raise mine eyes to Thee, nor would I know how to begin my prayer. But I come, basing on Thy most earnest desire and command that we should call upon Thee, and on Thy promise to hear us. Besides, Thou hast sent Thine Own Son, who taught us how to pray, giving us the very words. Hence I know that, Let my presumption in calling myself a child of Thine appear as great as it will, I do so in obedience to Thy will. Otherwise I would charge Thee with falsehood, and heap upon myself, in addition to my other sins, the graver one of despising Thy command and doubting Thy promise.

5

Assurance of Being Heard for Christ's Sake

O GOD, Creator of heaven and earth, who hast sent Thy Son, Christ Jesus, for me into this world, that He might be crucified for me, die and rise again on the third day, ascend to heaven and there sit at Thy right hand, hold everything in His hand, send us His Spirit and have us await His coming to judge both the quick and the dead, thus attaining to the eternal kingdom, our inheritance, which Thou wilt give to us through Him. To that end,

O Lord God, Thou has instituted Holy Baptism, and the Sacrament of the body and blood of Thy Son; to these sacraments Christ has bound us, and therein He has revealed Himself to us. If in these Sacraments we lay hold on Christ, we surely have Him. All other things not enjoined on us we should dispense with, otherwise we would far miss the mark.

6

God Heareth Us

DEAR FATHER In heaven, Thou lovest me, I know, because I love Thy Son, Jesus Christ, my Savior. Trusting in this I do now confidently pray Thee to hear me and to grant what I ask—not because I am so holy and pious, but because I know that Thou, for Christ's sake, wilt readily give and grant all things to us. In His name I now come before Thee, offer my prayer—no matter who I am as to my person—confident that it is “yea” and surely heard. Amen.

Preparatory to the Lord's Supper

O MY DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, I am a poor unworthy sinner, not fit to raise mine eyes and hands to Thee in prayer. But because Thou hast commanded us to pray and hast promised to hear us, and because Thou hast given us both the words and the manner of prayer through Thy dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ while on earth, I now pray thus:

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.



Morning Prayer for Sunday

ETERNAL, ALMIGHTY GOD AND FATHER, I return unto Thee most heartfelt thanks for having, during this past night and all former times, graciously kept me by Thy holy angels from all harm and danger of body and soul; and I pray Thee, from the inmost of my heart, to forgive me all my sins wherewith I have ever provoked Thee, and to quicken my heart with Thy Holy Spirit, that I may daily grow and increase in Thy knowledge. Also grant me grace to guard myself on this day against sin and shame and to be found in accord with Thy divine will, in order so to walk that, guarded against all ill, I may always keep Thee in my heart and thoughts. And when the hour of my death draws nigh, and I am to depart, grant, I beseech Thee, that I may fall asleep unto eternal life, in the true knowledge of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Before Going to Church

O GRACIOUS GOD AND FATHER, Thou seest I have no desire for Thy word on account of

my depraved nature. I am enticed from it, or am indolent and slow to hear and keep it, because of the devil, my flesh and blood, the children of this world, and also because of false teachers and preachers. Therefore, I pray Thee, O eternal God, forgive me my natural indolence and slothfulness and give me a willing and alert heart to hear and ponder Thy word. Awaken in me a heartfelt desire for the sincere milk of the word, as the newborn babes. Grant that my highest pleasure and delight may ever center in Thy word. May nothing be dearer to me in this world than Thy word; may I love it more than gold and much fine gold, ever considering it my best treasure. And since, alas! I have lived to see the time foretold by Thine own Son, in which false Christs shall rise and "show great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect," I pray Thee, Thou wouldest graciously guard and keep me from error and false doctrine. Preserve me in Thy truth—Thy word is the truth—that I may adhere to it and remain steadfast in it to my last hour. All this, I pray Thee, grant for the sake of Thy glory and Thy most holy and exalted name. Amen.



Evening Prayer for Sunday

O LORD, Almighty God and Heavenly Father, I thank Thee from the inmost of my heart for all Thy mercy and kindness, which, like as a father, Thou hast shown me this day, and hast kept me safe from all ills. And I further pray Thee, as Thy dear child, graciously to preserve me to my last breath in Thy saving word, and to enlighten my heart with Thy Holy Spirit, that I may know what is good or evil. All sin that I have knowingly committed this day, also my secret faults, I ask Thee in mercy to forget, and to grant me a Christian's rest for the night, that I may rise hale and hearty to Thy praise. Also help me, dear Father, by Thy grace, to begin a new life well-pleasing to Thee, to my soul's salvation; through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, our only helper. Amen.

A Second Evening Prayer for Sunday

We praise and bless Thee, Lord God, Father of heaven and earth, for having, out of pure mercy and kindness, so bountifully provided both our body

with daily bread and our soul with that heavenly food, even Thy holy word. Grant, O faithful God, that it may remain in our hearts, and work great good to Thine honor and our salvation. We also pray Thy fatherly grace, Thou wouldest not withdraw from us Thy pure word and the service of Thy house; nor remember against us our guilt and sin with which we have desecrated this day, but rather, we pray Thee, blot them out according to Thy great mercy, through the bitter suffering and death of Thy dear Son, Christ Jesus. And we commend ourselves to Thy divine protection and fatherly blessing, for this and all our remaining days, in this vale of tears. May Thy holy angels keep guard over us, that the enemy may have no power over us.

But since the evening of this world is now drawing nigh and the day is far spent, we would ask for the grace of thy Spirit, that we may ever be watchful, and in living faith, fervent love, firm hope, and holy walk wait for the blessed appearance of the glory of the great God, our Savior, Christ Jesus, when He shall come to judge the quick and the dead, that we may then receive Him fittingly and joyfully, enter eternal life with Him, and thus attain to the eternal day of joy and rest with all elect. Have mercy, O Lord, upon all Christendom, and remove all oppression, derision,

and tyranny from Thy poor persecuted Church, comfort all troubled and distressed consciences by the true Comforter, the Holy Ghost, and send upon all of us Thy peace, through Jesus Christ, our Advocate and only Mediator. Amen.

5

Morning Prayer for Monday

O THOU HOLY AND FAITHFUL GOD, Heavenly Father, I laud, honor and magnify Thee from the inmost of my heart that Thou didst suffer me to rest and sleep in safety this past night, and didst, in Thy paternal love, again awaken me refreshed and in health. I heartily pray Thee that Thou wouldst graciously preserve me together with all devout Christians, this day and at all times, from every ill and danger of body and soul, that I may each day be found to walk in Thy way. I, therefore, commend my body and soul, my heart, mind, and thoughts, all my meditation and imagination, my sitting and lying down, my going-in and coming-out, my life and death, in fine, all I am and do, to Thy divine protection. Thy holy angel be and remain with me, that I meet with no harm in body or soul. Grant this, I beseech Thee, for Christ Jesus, Thy beloved Son's sake. Amen.

Evening Prayer for Monday

MERCIFUL GOD, Gracious Father, I thank Thee most heartily that Thou hast graciously kept me this day, to this very hour, from all harm of body and soul, and I pray Thee, for Christ Jesus, Thy dear Son's sake, graciously to forgive all sin I have committed against Thee again this day in thoughts, words and deeds, and to remember them no more in all eternity. And as I am about to retire to rest, I beseech Thee, my Father, Thou wouldst guard me from all ills of body and soul, so that I may rest and sleep secure from the wiles and power of the devil, and from dreams vain and vile, thus rising in the morning to Thy glory, refreshed and in health. And now I commend myself wholly into Thy divine hand; Thou hast redeemed me, Thou faithful God. Amen.

Morning Prayer for Tuesday

LORD JESUS CHRIST, Thou only Savior of the world, to Thee I raise my heart and mind and again thank Thee for having, by Thy boundless

mercy and love, preserved me in safety this past night from the wiles and power of the wicked foe. Lord Jesus Christ, Thou art my part and my heritage, my salvation rests with Thee, and I know of no helper save Thee in heaven or on earth. Therefore, because of Thine unutterable sufferings, and Thy death most bitter and ignominious, which Thou, out of great love, didst suffer for me, a poor sinner, I pray Thee, dearest Lord Jesus, be gracious and merciful unto me, bless and sustain me this day and the rest of my life, ever guarding and keeping me from sin and all ills, until Thou wilt graciously summon me to eternal joy and bliss, for Thy most holy name's sake. Amen.

8

Evening Prayer for Tuesday

O ETERNAL, Gracious and bountiful God in heaven who hast again, out of boundless grace and fatherly care, suffered me to end this day in good health and spirits, I thank Thee for this from my whole heart. And since, alas, I did not spend this day to Thy praise and honor, and to the welfare of my neighbor, my perverted nature being inclined to evil rather than to good, grant, I beseech

Thee, O faithful God, that I, who was conceived in sin, may realize my frailty and partake of Thy divine grace. Also teach me to meditate often on my death, that I may prepare for it in true repentance, and at its approach may, with confidence and bliss, leave this life of misery to be translated into Thy heavenly paradise, together with all faithful Christians. But while in this mortal frame, I pray Thee, to take me into Thine almighty protection, guarding and preserving me from all harm and danger of body and soul; for Christ Jesus, Thy dear Son's sake. Amen.

9

Morning Prayer for Wednesday

O ALMIGHTY And merciful God, gracious Father in heaven, Thou hast again, by the protection of Thy ministering spirits, the holy angels, kept me this past night, so that I have lived to see this day in good health and spirits. For this I earnestly laud, praise and magnify Thee, furthermore praying Thee, dear heavenly Father, in whose will I center all I do or leave undone, all my ends and aims, graciously to remember me also in future. Govern, I beseech Thee, with Thy Holy

Spirit, my heart, mind and thoughts, all my designs and purposes, my words and works, that I may understand what is good or evil, and may in this wicked and perverted world so live and walk this day as, above all things, to be free from sin and to experience a heartfelt desire for that eternal home purchased and secured for me by Christ, my Savior—not forfeiting it by a life of sin. To this end graciously lend me the aid of Thy divine love and the power of the Holy Ghost, for Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son's sake. Amen.

Evening Prayer for Wednesday

O ALMIGHTY GOD And benignant Father, I return thanks to Thee for having again this day graciously kept me in body and soul from all harm and ill. Whatever sin I have committed this day, with heart, tongue or otherwise, against Thee and Thy holy commandments, forgive, I beseech Thee, according to Thy loving-kindness, and forsake me not, whom Thou hast bought with a price, even the precious blood of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ. Protect me this night, I pray Thee, under the almighty wings of Thy grace, against the evil foe, who goeth

about, as a roaring lion, seeking to devour me, that I may rest and sleep securely under the shadow of Thy grace and goodness, and the evil foe may not draw nigh unto me and harm me. Amen.

11

Morning Prayer for Thursday

O EXALTED TRINITY, God Father, Son and Holy Ghost, to Thee do I commit myself body and soul now and forever, and render Thee most heartfelt thanks that Thou didst not suffer the evil foe to harm me this past night, but didst keep me by Thine angels in good health and spirits. What shall I give Thee in return? How shall I properly praise Thee? I will give Thee a broken and contrite heart, full of sin, red as scarlet, but also full of sorrow and contrition; graciously accept it, I pray Thee, wash it white as snow in the precious blood of Thy dear Son, my Redeemer, conceal it in His holy, innocent wounds, thus conveying to me the forgiveness of all my sins. Help me, furthermore, that on this and all my days I may be found in Christian readiness, as I do not know when Thou wilt come, or in what place or manner I may be

summoned, that I may enter into eternal bliss. Grant this gracious God and Father, for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

12

Evening Prayer for Thursday

O GRACIOUS And benignant God, eternal Father, how cordial is the love, and how fatherly the care Thou hast for me, a poor sinner, having so graciously protected me all my days and hours, from my tender youth to the present moment, against the manifold wiles of the devil, and the dangers and temptations of the wicked world. And I humbly pray Thee that, according to Thy fatherly love towards me, Thou wouldest nevermore remember against me all that I have transgressed against Thee this day, but graciously remit the same. Be merciful unto me, because of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, who is surety for all my sins. And during this night protect me and all mine against a sudden evil death, against disaster from fire or water, against pestilence and all manner of ills. So I now commend myself, my body, soul and all I have to Thy fatherly protection; Thy holy angel be with me, that I need fear no ill. Amen.

Morning Prayer for Friday

IN THY NAME, Thou crucified Lord Jesus Christ, I, a poor sinner have now arisen. On the sacred cross, Thou, the real and patient lamb of sacrifice, didst endure for me the most painful death and didst redeem me with Thy crimson blood from all my sins, from death, Satan and hell: govern my heart by Thy Holy Spirit, refresh it with the heavenly dew of Thy grace, keep me this day with Thy divine love, and hide me, body and soul, in Thy holy wounds; cleanse me from all my sins, preserve me in all good works, and guide me out of this vale of tears into Thine eternal joy and glory, O most faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, my only comfort, hope and life. Amen.

Evening Prayer for Friday

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Thou patient sacrificial lamb and sacred atonement for all my sins, and not only for mine but for the sins of the whole world, to Thee I again render thanks from the inmost of my heart, for having, like a father, kept

me, as to body and soul, in Thy protection this day, and I pray Thee graciously to pardon and forgive me all my sins, which this day I have committed because of the weakness of my perverted nature and the instigation of the evil spirit, and which weigh heavily upon my heart and conscience. And since I am now about to retire to rest and to sleep, I pray, Thou wouldest spread the wings of Thy grace over me, that I may sleep, beneath them in peace and quietness as to the body, but with the soul watch alway, looking for Thee and Thy glorious coming to judgment, and sighing for the time when I shall be called hence to be with Thee in bliss.

Grant this, I beseech Thee, O faithful God, together with Thy dear Son and the Holy Spirit, most blessed for ever. Amen.

Morning Prayer for Saturday

O THOU FAITHFUL FATHER In heaven, would that I could render unto Thee adequate thanks and praise for all the blessings Thou hast bestowed upon me during all the days of my life up to this hour, but this is not within my power

and ability. For I am flesh and blood, which cannot but do wrong. Thou, however, dost daily grant me blessings without measure; in particular, if Thou this night hadst not been my shield and support, Satan would have used his power to harm me in many ways, so that I could not have arisen safe and sound. But owing to Thy gracious protection, I have been kept unharmed. I now fervently pray Thee, let me this day experience Thy grace, and keep me, who am Thine own through Christ's blood, in Thy grace unto life everlasting. Amen. Lord Jesus, receive my soul into Thine hands, and let it be committed unto Thee. Amen.

Evening Prayer for Saturday

MERCIFUL And gracious God and Father, I again render Thee heartfelt thanks and praise, for having, during all the days of my life, taken so paternal a care of me, and having during the day, yea, during the week up to this very hour, graciously guarded me against all harm of body and soul. I pray Thee furthermore, by that grace that all penitent sinners have before Thee, Thou wouldst cover and nevermore remember the sins that to-

day and all week I have committed against Thee and my neighbor, knowingly and unknowingly. And grant in grace, I pray Thee, that in leaving the old week I may enter a new Christian life, pleasing to Thee and to all the elect in heaven. For the coming night I commit myself to Thy gracious protection, that I may rest and sleep in safety, and rise to Thy further honor refreshed and in health. And if the hour of my death be at hand, take me unto Thyself, Lord Jesus, for I am Thine and Thou art mine; my soul yearneth to be with Thee. Amen.

Daily Renewal of the Baptismal Covenant

HEREBY, God Father, Son and Holy Ghost, I renew the covenant of my Holy Baptism, this day and for all times renouncing the devil, all his works and all his pomp, also the ways of the wicked world and of my sinful flesh. I anew consecrate to Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, my body and soul, and commit to Thee the temporal, spiritual and eternal welfare of myself and my kin. O God, my Father, I entrust myself fully to Thy care, grace, love and truth. O Jesus, my Redeemer, I clothe myself

with Thy merits, with Thy blood, wounds and blessed communion. O Holy Spirit, my Comforter, I consign myself wholly to Thy guidance, power, light and comfort. O Triune God, Thou art mine, I am Thine; Thou art my Father, I am Thy child; Thou art my shepherd, I am Thy sheep; Thou art my Lord, I am Thine own. O my God, how can I sufficiently thank Thee that Thou hast deigned to raise me, a wretched sinner, to the blessed relation of a Christian by means of Holy Baptism, that gracious washing of regeneration! Oh, keep and preserve me in this state of grace even unto death. Grant, O Lord, that this consciousness of being Thy child may ever be my comfort against Satan, sin and death, and may I value it more highly than all worldly honor or temporal dignity; may I conform my life thereto and finally die a Christian death. Grant this, O Lord God, by the power of the Holy Ghost, and for the sake of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ. Honor, glory and thanks be to the Triune God forever and ever. Amen.



Prayer on a Birthday

My Lord and my God, in Thee I live, move and have my being in life or death. "I will praise Thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." Thou wast my stay when I was in my mother's womb; my substance was not hid from Thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. "Thine eyes did see my substance, being yet imperfect; and in Thy book all my members were written which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."

To-day I recall the day of my birth, which is the beginning not only of temporal, but also of spiritual life, inasmuch as I was soon brought to Holy Baptism, where I was reconciled to God, cleansed of my sin by the washing of regeneration, and received the Holy Ghost. For this I earnestly thank and praise Thee. This day reminds me, to Thy praise, God, my Creator, that I was not only born into this world, but that Thou hast brought me to a place where Thy name is truly known and Thy holy word taught in all purity, by means of which I was through Thee brought to true faith. I also

thank Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits Thou hast showered upon me as to body and soul, from the day of my birth up to this present hour. Thou hast nourished and kept me; Thou hast protected my life in manifold ways by Thy holy angels, who always see the face of the Father in heaven, and hast daily provided me in rich measure with food and clothing. Moreover, through Thy word Thou hast conveyed to me spiritual and imperishable gifts; in Holy Baptism, the washing of regeneration, Thou hast given me the assurance that I am a new creature and a first-fruit of Jesus Christ, granting me forgiveness of sin, the Holy Spirit and eternal life for an inheritance. And though oftentimes, from weakness of the flesh or perversity of mind, I have forsaken my God, ignored His commandments, and have, by many gross sins transgressed more than seventy times seven against God in heaven and my neighbor on earth, Thou didst not enter into judgment with me, nor visit me with sudden, well-deserved punishment. O God, Holy Spirit, how shamefully I have spent my life, how seriously I faltered, yea committed grievous sins many a time. But Thou, O God, Holy Ghost, hast sought me, the lost sheep, so often, and led me back into the right path; Thou hast sanctified, comforted, governed, and kept me in my calling: Thou hast stayed the devil and warded off innum-

erable dangers of body and soul—dangers that long ago would have caused my ruin, if Thou hadst not stood by me. O Holy Trinity, I pray Thee to grant a happy birth, forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all that are to see the light of day. Let not this anniversary of my birth, I pray Thee, or any of my future days, be marred by mortal sin, I ever being of my sinful extraction and depravity. Preserve me in health and life, until I reach the appointed goal. Grant patience in sufferings and trials. Comfort me in every misfortune and distress. Daily grant, I beseech Thee, forgiveness of my sins, as well as steadfastness unto my soul's salvation, that I may serve Thee unto the end in true, saving faith and a good conscience. Amen.

A Prayer for Children

ALMIGHTY GOD, Heavenly Father, in the Fourth Commandment Thou hast so earnestly enjoined upon me to honor my father and my mother, also promised graciously to reward such service with long life and well-being: I now pray Thee from the inmost of my heart, give unto me an obedient heart, that with due reverence obeys in

all things my dear parents and all those placed over me in their stead, giving them honor in word and deed with patience. May I never hurt their feelings, or despise and mock them as long as I live, that Thy blessing may come upon me. Grant, O Lord God, that I may carefully keep their words, commands and directions, storing them in my heart and binding them about my neck, also accepting their corrections and not forgetting their instructions, so that I may live the longer upon the earth. Rule me, I pray Thee, by Thy good Spirit, that I may yield to the corrections of my father and not abandon the directions of my mother, that I may be their joy and comfort. In all I do or leave undone, grant that I may ever keep before me the example of my Lord and Savior, who, as a model for all pious children, was subject to his dear mother, the virgin Mary, and to his foster-parent Joseph. Bestow upon me a heart thankful and modest, that I may requite my parents by serving them in return, particularly by ministering unto them in their old age, bearing with them if they grow childish and peevish, never forgetting that they gave me life. And forgive me, in grace, my acts of childish weakness and waywardness against them. Do Thou preserve me from bad company and people of loose habits, so that when the wicked entice I do not consent nor

follow in their ways, but guard my foot from their paths, so that shame and vice may not be my portion. O Lord, Thou hast hitherto reared me as a father does his son, grant that I incline mine ears and listen to the words of the wise, storing up wisdom in the days of my youth for the purpose of becoming prudent and cautious. Grant Thine aid that I may increase in wisdom, stature, and grace with Thee and my fellowmen, for Christ Jesus' sake. Amen.

A Prayer for Young People

O FATHER Of all grace and mercy, Thou art a holy God and wilt have also us lead a life holy and free from the lusts and desires of our sinful flesh. I deplore my weakness and the shortcomings of my sinful nature. To will is indeed present with me, but how to perform that which is good, I find not. Three mighty enemies I find assailing me: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life; these endeavor to draw me from Thy grace. Therefore, I pray Thee, O my Father, to create and to preserve in me a clean heart. Grant that I carefully shun all places which lend occasion for un-

cleanness, and that, restrained by Thy fear, I may not make members of fornication out of the members of my body, they at the same time being members of Christ Jesus, my Savior. But rather let me ever, in ardent devotion and a fervent longing for heaven, be most intent upon so living that my body may be a temple of God the Holy Ghost, never ceasing to love Jesus, who was crucified and given into death for me. Let me love that heavenly wisdom, in order that I may never find myself on the slippery paths of sin. O God, just and holy, who triest both heart and reins, grant that I may so adhere to Thee in this world that in the world to come I may not be separated from Thee. Amen.

A Prayer for Servants

O MERCIFUL GOD, Thou hast by the precious suffering and death of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, delivered and freed me from eternal bondage, from the power of sin, from the realm of darkness, and from the cruel tyranny of the devil, and hast made me lord over death and hell: I now pray Thee graciously to grant that I take no dislike to my position of dependence wherein Thou hast according to

Thy will and pleasure, placed me in this world. May I never in impatience murmur against this Thy order, nor envy other people their superior station; but may I ever gladly and with my whole heart conform to this Thy will and walk as serving Thee, my God in heaven and not man on earth. Do Thou grant, therefore, O Lord God, that I may serve Thee, the highest Lord in heaven and on earth, in true knowledge and fear unfeigned, love Thee above all things, place all the hope of my salvation in Thee, and walk in Thy commandments without blame. Grant, furthermore, that I may, in due patience, be obedient to my master and mistress, not only if they be kind and lenient, but also if froward and whimsical, serving them in all things that are not against Thy commandments, with all fear, in simpleness of heart, as serving Christ, my Lord,—not to favor man, but from sincerity of heart and in line with Thy will and command. Bestow Thy grace that I may be found faithful in all things entrusted to me, not neglecting or wasting aught, or causing any damage by negligence of mine. And may I never covet what is not mine, or be dishonest in administering what has been placed in my charge. Preserve my health, strengthen my body, endow me with wisdom and understanding, that I may properly perform the work assigned me by master or mistress; increase

their substance by Thy divine aid, and may they be blessed and grow apace through my industry. Finally may all I do and perform tend to Thy divine honor and to a blessed exercise of my faith, for Christ Jesus, Thy dear Son's sake, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost to all eternity. Amen.

Prayer of a Husband

ALMIGHTY, Beneficent God, Thou hast Thyself instituted holy wedlock, and hast, by means of the first miracle of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, honored and distinguished it as a state pleasing to Thee, in which also many sainted fathers and prophets lived a godly life, well-pleasing to Thee. And since by Thy guidance I have entered holy matrimony, and Thou hast ordained me to be the head of a household and dost take especial delight in the following of three things: that brethren dwell together in unity, that neighbors love one another, and that husband and wife serve each other in love, I now pray Thee, from the inmost of my heart grant that I, in Christian love, harmony, and consideration live with my wife as the weaker vessel,

that I accord to her the honor due her as co-heir to the grace of life eternal, that I incline her, together with our children and domestics to a knowledge of Thee and Thine honor, doing all this in chastity and propriety. To this end do Thou bestow grace, that the members of my household follow my guidance when I direct them to what is good and godly. Prevent the evil one from introducing discord and contention, and if, through weakness of the flesh, the spirit of discord get the upper hand, grant that harmony be speedily restored. Graciously grant that I may never covet a strange spouse or woman, nor look upon her to lust after her. If it is Thy divine will, keep sickness from me and my family. And grant to me, Thine humble servant, that I be diligent in my calling, eat my bread in the sweat of my brow, and do not grow disheartened over stress of work, for Thou hast so ordained it. Also bestow Thy blessing upon my substance, that it may increase without damage or loss to others. Favor me with pious servants and faithful laborers. Preserve from harm my house and my home and all Thou hast given me. Also help me patiently to bear my cross, and after this life gather us and all Christians in Thy kingdom above. Amen.

Prayer of a Wife

O BENIGNANT GOD And faithful Father, since Thou in grace hast called me to domestic duties in holy wedlock, a state in which I can also serve and please Thee, O my God—give grace unto me, Thy servant, that I may constantly keep Thy fear before mine eyes, also love and trust in Thee, my Creator and Redeemer, above all things; but in second place fear, honor, and love my husband, not coveting any other. Do Thou grant that according to Thy decree my will be subject to that of my husband, yielding to him with all readiness, and that my heart be ever graced with that mild, peaceful spirit and those manifold virtues shown by the holy women of ancient days, who placed their hope in God and were subject to their husbands. Grant to me, Thine handmaid, a chaste and proper walk in fear and humility, so that I may, with kind and modest words and in a spirit of piety, prevent or allay any wrath or ill humor of my husband, ever treating him with gentleness and forbearance. May I rear my children and domestics in a mild spirit to the praise and glory of Thy holy name, and may they readily follow my guidance to what is noble and good. Grant, fur-

thermore, that I may be a true helpmeet to my husband, being careful and not wasteful with the substance thou hast graciously given us. Also grant that I work and exert myself, that I "have to give to him that needeth," and may extend my hand in charity to the poor. Preserve us from dishonest laborers and evil-minded domestics, who would diminish or waste our property. Also bestow grace, I pray Thee, for a patient bearing of my cross, so that I do not grow timid and dismayed at prospects of a trial, inasmuch as by trials and adversities our faith is proved. O Lord God, into Thine almighty hand I commit myself, my dear husband, all my children and domestics; preserve us, I pray Thee, from sin, shame, and all ills, through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for the Aged

O LORD GOD, Thou our dwelling place in all generations; our life and our increase of years, in whose hands is our time, the years have drawn nigh, of which I say, "I have no pleasure in them," for my strength is fast declining in my advanced age, while manifold ailings and frailties are in-

creasing. I humbly pray Thee, who hast so graciously led me from my earliest infancy and hast been my constant hope from the days of my youth, do not forsake me now in old age, when I am weak and my hair has turned grey, but bear me up and sustain me to the day of my happy death. But above all I would pray Thee, O Father of grace, to rule and guide me with Thy holy and good Spirit, that I may wholly consecrate myself to Thee for the remaining days of my life, by a Christian walk, by prayer and supplication. And grant to me, the longer the more, a state of Christian readiness, that, whether the time of my departure be to-day or tomorrow, it be peaceful as Simeon's of old, and that, on departing this life, I may enter life eternal. Amen.

A Prayer for the Proper Performance of One's Duties

O MERCIFUL And faithful God, Thou hast ordained that each person should have a certain calling and faithfully attend to it. Now Thou seest and knowest my responsibilities, O Lord, and that without Thy grace, strength and blessing I am not

able to do anything whatever; thou also knowest my manifold shortcomings. And, therefore, I earnestly pray Thee, do Thou bestow upon me wisdom and strength, together with a courageous and fearless spirit, so that I may act prudently, overcome all obstacles that arise and attain to a blessed and desired end by Thy fatherly guidance. My hope rests in Thee, O my God, let me not be confounded, nor let mine enemies rejoice over me; but no one will be forsaken that waiteth on the Lord. O show me Thy ways, and teach me Thy paths, for Thou art the God of my help, daily do I wait on Thee. Preserve my soul, save me and lend Thine aid to all that concerns my welfare. Let me not be confounded, for I trust in Thee. O Lord, my God and my deliverer, be not far from me; hasten, O Lord, to succor me! Amen.

A Prayer Before Work

ETERNAL And merciful God, I am about to resume my work and the duties of the calling into which Thou hast placed me, Thy servant. May I apply myself according to the ability Thou dost grant, so that I may serve my neighbor and make

an honest living. Relying on Thy gracious promise, I, therefore, heartily pray Thee, to bestow upon me, for the duties about to be resumed, prudence, wisdom, understanding, success, and blessing, together with health, so that I not only make a good beginning but in Thy name and by Thine aid arrive at a profitable close, thus at all times faithfully attending to my duties with a clear conscience and in Thy fear. To Thee I commend my work; give success to my projects, and let me accomplish what I undertake in Thy name, so Thy light may cast a bright beam on my path, to Thy praise and glory and to the welfare of my neighbor, through Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. O Lord Jesus, in Thy name and upon Thy word I will cast out my net. O Lord, help, O Lord, grant success! Amen.

A Prayer for Blessing in One's Calling

O LORD, Thou dost assign to each man his duties according to his ability, and dost want us to eat our bread in the sweat of our brow, until we return again unto dust. Behold on Thy word I have cast out the net of my calling, as we are to live of hon-

est labor and experience Thy blessing. May my toil and labor not be lost, but grant that, "working with my hands the thing which is good, I may have to give to him that needeth." May Thy blessing—on which all depends—ever attend my efforts, I bringing them to a successful issue without impairing the interests of others, in order that my substance be devoted to the honor of God, and the members of my family be provided for. Cause Thy blessing, I pray Thee, to increase as time goes on; bless our "basket and our store," for Thy blessing enriches, though the busy hand work and worry not. O Lord, make my heart glad and my face joyful; give me health, life and success. I ask all this subject to Thy will; Lord hear my prayer. To Thee I commit my way, I trust also in Thee, Thou wilt bring it to pass. Blessed be the Lord daily. Amen.

A Prayer of Luther on the Passage: "Casting
all your Care Upon Him, for He Careth
for You"

O HEAVENLY FATHER, Thou art truly my Lord and my God, who hast created me, bringing me forth out of nothing, and Thou hast also re-

deemed me through Thy Son. Now, Thou hast appointed and assigned to me this office and these my duties, but matters do not always take the turn I would like, and there are so many things troubling and distressing me that I find in myself neither help nor consolation. For this very reason I commit everything to Thee, looking to Thee for counsel and aid. In all these questions be Thou the beginning and the end. Amen.

Prayer in View of an Undertaking of Moment

O LORD, Thou doest great deeds that cannot be fathomed, and miracles that cannot be counted; Thy strength is made perfect in weakness. I call upon Thee, O most High, to give success to my efforts and graciously to aid me in completing this undertaking that I have begun in full reliance on Thee. Lord God, strengthen me in this hour and forsake not Thy servant, who places all his hope in Thee, and without Thee can do nothing. Provide me with strength from on high, and give me of the wisdom that is perpetually about Thy throne, that it may be with me and assist me in my work. And since all depends on Thy divine blessing, I now

pray Thee, O my God, remember me in Thy rich mercy and bless all I do or leave undone, that I may begin all my undertakings prudently and bring them to a happy issue.

In every enterprise
 Lord, counsel me, advise;
 Speed all my work; in favor
 And blessing crown my labor.

TO THEE I commit my going-out and my coming in; to Thee I will thankfully ascribe all praise for the success of my undertaking. Amen. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thanksgiving upon Completion of Work

ALMIGHTY, Eternal and beneficent God, I give unto Thee hearty thanks and praise for Thy most holy aid and assistance shown me this day, for without Thee I surely could have done nothing, so all praise properly belong to Thee. And I pray Thee, deign to be pleased with my work, and have it tend to the welfare, in body and soul, of myself and neighbors; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, true God, who liveth and reigneth to all eternity, with Thee and the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer While on a Journey

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Thou all-gracious Lord and Savior, who for our sakes didst become a guest and pilgrim upon earth, I come unto Thee in humbleness of heart and pray Thee to take into Thy fostering care my whole life and walk in this world. Graciously preserve me, through the ministering care of Thy holy angels, on this journey and on all my ways from all ills and misfortunes, from accidents and dangers of soul or body, in order that I may bring my undertaking to a successful end, and return to my beloved ones in good health and spirits. To Thee alone, O Lord, I entrust for the whole journey my body and soul and all I own. Do Thou guide my walk and my way to my temporal and eternal welfare. In the meantime, take into Thy faithful providence those dear to me at home, that we may meet again in happiness and health. And when at last I shall have ended the pilgrimage of my life here upon earth, then take me, by a peaceful and happy death, into Thy glory, my heavenly home. · Amen.

Prayer when Putting Out to Sea

BEHOLD, Eternal God, I now launch out upon the deep, and commit myself to the wild, rough sea. Here I am floating on the water, as it were between heaven and earth, and on so small and fragile a structure as cannot protect itself, much less me. Upon whom then am I, a poor human being, to rely? Ah, upon Thee alone and Thy fatherly protection and care, my God and Lord, for neither man nor any other of Thy creatures, can save me. The wind bloweth whither it listeth; the sea raiseth its billows; beneath me I see no footing, and above me only the bare heavens. My fellow-beings at my side are in like danger and anxiety; therefore, O God, I lift mine eyes up to Thee, from whom alone my help cometh; my help cometh from the Lord that hath made heaven and earth. To Thee I entrust myself, body and soul, to be Thine own with all I have and possess. To Thee alone I look, in Thee I trust, my hope rests with Thee; there is no help with man. Bear up this ship in Thine hands, guard and keep me in it, yea, be Thou with me in the vessel, for otherwise, O Lord, we perish. "Whom have I in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire

besides Thee." When now leaving the land behind me, grant that I may also leave behind me all trust in human or earthly aid, and rely entirely upon Thee. Behold, O Lord, I surrender entirely to Thy pleasure; shape my destiny as accords with Thy will and best advances my soul's salvation. Into Thy hands do I commit myself; behold, Thou hast graven me upon the palms of Thy hands; no one shall pluck me out of Thy hand, for "I am of the people of Thy pasture and the sheep of Thy hand." On these truths I will gladly live and die by the help of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

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Prayer of a Voyager in a Storm

O GOD ALMIGHTY, Thou God of the righteous, who hast made the sea and the dry land and hast all things in Thy hand, Thou didst give rise to the storm which raises such billows that our vessel is now borne aloft towards the heavens, now down again into the depths, and one reels to and fro like a drunken man and is at his wit's end,—to use the words of inspiration—in such danger and distress we now are on this voyage. But since Thou hast said, "Call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver Thee," we in this great need, from

which no creature can deliver us, but Thou alone, hold out to Thee Thy word with believing hearts, and pray Thee, according to Thy mercy, to show forth Thine almighty power, rebuke the wind and the sea, and let there be a great calm. Graciously preserve us, we beseech Thee, from harm and shipwreck, hold Thy gracious hand over us and mercifully deliver us from this danger. We shall then bless Thy name all the days of our lives, ever be mindful of this Thy signal help and amend our lives to accord with Thy holy word. O Lord God, be merciful unto us and forgive our sins for Christ Jesus' sake. O help us or we perish! O Lord, deliver us for Thy mercy's sake! But if Thou hast decreed that our life is to end here, then grant us Christian patience, keep us in true faith, and give us the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls. Lord, be Thou with us, forsake us not. Thou canst deliver from death; Thou canst also deliver us from this danger. O hear us, hear us, hear us, Lord God Father, for Jesus Christ's sake! Hear us, O Lord Jesus for the sake of Thy holy five wounds! Hear us Lord God, Holy Ghost, for the sake of Thy mercy and grace! Help us, Lord God, Father; help us, Lord God, Son; help us Lord God, Holy Ghost, for Thine own self's sake, for the honor of Thy name's sake, and for Thine infinite mercy's sake. Amen.

Brief Instruction on Confession and Absolution

WHEN, My dear Christian, you go to confession, you must not content yourself with repeating, by rote, a memorized confessional prayer, or with having your pastor repeat it to you, but you must bring along a penitent heart, from which your confession will flow of itself. To offer confession when the heart is impenitent is simply mocking God, and without a penitent heart there is no forgiveness of sin.

The first requisite for a penitent heart is that you recognize your sins and feel sorry and repentant over them. By nature no man knows his sins, nor can he, of himself, cause repentance to spring from his heart; this, on the contrary, must be obtained from God by prayer. By nature we are by far too blind, too indifferent, too careless, too self-righteous, too much absorbed in self-love and self-conceit, honestly and penitently to plead guilty in the sight of God, of all sins.

Therefore, above all things bow your knees before God and call upon him to open your eyes, that you may thoroughly recognize the multitude and magnitude of your sins. Pray in the words of the sainted David, "Search me, O God, and know my heart, try me, and know my thoughts: and see, if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the

way everlasting." Hereupon take the Holy Ten Commandments, and according to them institute a careful examinaion of your whole life. You will soon find that you are a sinner. For even as a man does not see a spot on his face without a mirror, so he does not recognize his sins, unless he sees himself in the mirror of the Holy Ten Commandments. For every deed, every word, yea, every thought against God's commandments, is a sin, whether it consist in doing what God has forbidden, or in not doing what He has commanded. But you must not only look at the gross, external sins, but also at those internal, secret digressions from God's commandments—the evil thoughts and desires of your heart. When thus examining yourself, being instant in prayer, you will discover that you did not fear, love, and trust in God as He demands; that you have not called upon God in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving so heartily and confidently, as you should have done; nor properly heard and learned His word, or kept it sacred. You will find that you have not duly honored and loved your parents and superiors, but that you have been disobedient and surly towards them; that you have sinned against your neighbor by being angry, revengeful, and unforgiving; by entertaining unchaste thoughts and desires; by showing envy, covetousness, and a carnal mind, or by slanderous words. To sum up, you

will come to know that you did not love your neighbor so uprightly and heartily as yourself; rather that self-love, the quest for personal gain and honor, was the motive power of all your actions. Because of these and other sins you indeed have deserved God's wrath, temporal and eternal punishment, if God would deal with you strictly according to justice. From these sins that you notice in yourself you can infer how unclean and polluted your heart must be, from which these sins flow; for the stream is no purer than its fountain, and by its fruits the tree is known. In this way you will come to a true conception of original sin.

Now when you notice these and other sins in yourself, yea, if you consider that the sins you do not know, but still have committed, are far more numerous, than those you do know, all of which the omniscient God places in the light of his countenance, you certainly will be terrified in your conscience, and experience sorrow and contrition for having offended your loving God, so grievously, and repaid his mercies with such base ingratitude.

The second part of repentance is faith, and it is the faith in Jesus Christ, who has rendered full satisfaction for all your sins, procuring forgiveness of them all, also for you. Faith is, so to speak, the hand that appropriates forgiveness of sin, and accepts it as an unmerited gift of divine grace. With-

out this faith all knowledge of sin and penitence over it, is nothing but the repentance of a Cain and a Judas, and must end in despair. But by faith in Jesus Christ, the Savior of all sinners, the heart is comforted and satisfied. This faith, however, you cannot bring forth of your own accord; it is the work and gift of God the Holy Ghost. But if you feel that you are wanting in this faith, desiring to believe, but yet not able, then pray God for this faith; He is willing to give, and will give it to you.

Thereupon the fruits of repentance are to follow. These consist in no longer knowingly and intentionally committing such sins as were forgiven you, but rather hating them, abstaining from them, and battling against them with the assistance of the Holy Ghost.

Now if you come with such a penitent heart to confession, you will be in a condition to receive absolution from your pastor, by virtue of which your sins are really and truly forgiven by God in heaven. Forgiveness of sin Christ has procured for all sinners, by the shedding of His blood and by His death sealing it by His resurrection. This He commanded to preach and administer throughout the world by means of the gospel. Now, when your pastor absolves you he does nothing else than proclaim to you the gospel of the forgiveness of

sins; this, however, is not an empty announcement, but one actually offering and conveying the forgiveness of sins to the penitent sinner. Whenever, therefore, you hear your pastor pronounce Absolution, do not doubt, but firmly believe that your sins are forgiven before God in heaven—believe it as firmly as though Christ spoke directly from heaven: “My son, (my daughter), be of good cheer, thy sins be forgiven thee.” For He says: “Whosoever heareth you, heareth me”; and, “Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them.”

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A Poor Sinner Laments the Impenitence of his Heart

O HEAVENLY FATHER, I, a miserable and wretched sinner, come before Thee with nothing but my sins, and so I dare not even lift up mine eyes to Thy most holy majesty on high, but I feel abased for having so often offended Thee and disobeyed Thy voice. Alas, there is in me no good thing, I having been conceived and borne in sin; and by nature I am perverted and corrupted to the degree that I neither feel nor experience any love

or desire for virtue and heavenly treasures, but only for temporal honor and pleasures and all manner of baseness. From my youth I have lived in sin, and do so to this day, having within me my sinful flesh, the old Adam. But I take comfort, dear Lord, in Thy boundless, unsearchable, infinite, and unspeakable grace and mercy, which Thou hast promised in Thy word to all penitent sinners and confirmed by a sacred oath. I take comfort in the precious merits of Thine only begotten Son, who was given into death for my sin also, and was raised for my justification.

'Hide Thy face, O my heavenly Father from my sins and behold the face of Thy Son, who never Himself committed a sin, yea, who knew no sin, but by His most holy obedience, blood, and death hath fully atoned for all my sins and those of the whole world. For the sake of this Savior receive me again into grace, O my Father, and do not let His bitter sufferings and death and His perfect, precious ransom, which He has paid Thee for my sins, be lost upon me, poor sinner, but be effectual in me. I will then laud and praise Thee, here in time and there in eternity. Amen.

Prayer for True Conversion

O ALMIGHTY GOD, Merciful Father, Thou dost call me and all sinners to repentance in the words: "Return Thou backsliding Israel, and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you; for I am merciful, and I will not keep anger for ever. Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord, thy God." This voice of repentance and grace daily reaches my ear and my heart, but, alas, I am not able, of myself, to bring about my conversion. No more than the Ethiopian can change his skin, or the leopard his spots, can I of my own natural power, abstain from sin and turn to good deeds, inasmuch as the imagination of my heart is evil from my youth up continually. Even when by grace I resolved to arise to seek reconciliation with Thee, and to offer the sacrifices of a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart, even then Satan, the accursed, places a thousand obstacles in my flesh and blood; endeavors to prevent me from doing "the good that I would," but would have me continue in sin and perish therein. For this reason I bow my knees to Thee, Abba, dear Father, praying for the sake of thine infinite mercy: "Turn Thou me, and I shall be holpen." Let

Thy grace, O my God, not be lost on me, but as Thou didst work in me to will, work also in me to do of Thy good pleasure. Counteract, I pray Thee, the evil designs of the infernal fiend, arrest the promptings of my perverted heart, so that the holy resolution I have may not be hindered or come to naught. Open mine eyes, that I may clearly see and bitterly lament my sins. Give unto me that godly sorrow that worketh repentance unto salvation not to be repented of. But, do not let me perish under the load of my sin, nor despair as did Cain and Judas, but do Thou turn to me and be gracious unto me, look upon my misery and distress, and forgive all my sins. Show unto me, I pray Thee, Thy Fatherly heart of love and mercy, which hath no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Speak kindly to my soul, saying Thou wilt show mercy in place of justice and nevermore remember my transgressions. Have me look upon Jesus the crucified, who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. Open to me, for a safe refuge, His bleeding wounds, in which so many a poor sinner has found comfort and salvation. Create also in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy

salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit in the fixed purpose to amend my sinful life, and to serve Thee, all the days of my life, in holiness and righteousness, pleasing to Thee. O Lord, hear me! O Lord, have mercy on me! O Lord, bring it to pass, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Prayer for Forgiveness of Sin

ETERNAL And merciful God, I, a poor, miserable and distressed sinner, enter the presence of Thy divine majesty with nothing but my sin; therefore I dare not lift up mine eyes, but am abashed before Thee, since I have so often provoked Thee, my God, my Creator and my Father, with sins great and manifold. So if Thou wouldst deal with me according to deserts, I should be and forever remain a child of wrath and eternal damnation. But, O my God and Father, I take comfort in Thy great mercy, and in Thy grace unfathomable, infinite, unspeakable, and without measure; a grace Thou Thyself didst promise and confirm with a solemn oath when saying, "As I live, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live." I take com-

fort in Thine only begotten Son, mine only Redeemer, Justifier, Mediator and Savior, who by virtue of his obedience, suffering, and death, has regained Thy favor for me, and has given me who believes in Him power to be and remain His child and heir. Therefore, I do not despair but I confess unto Thee my sins, those of thoughts and deeds, those secret and public, and I plead guilty in Thy sight of being a great malefactor and evildoer. So nothing remains but to come to Thy throne of grace, relying on Thy word with a meek heart and yet a fearless spirit, and basing in true faith and firm confidence on the grace Thou hast promised, and on the bitter sufferings of Thy dear Son. And I cry from the inmost of my heart: Abba, my Father and Lord, have mercy on me! O my God, be gracious to me, a poor sinner, and forgive all my sins, original and actual—all thoughts, words, and deeds that, knowingly or unknowingly, were at enmity with Thy word. There is in me, that is in my flesh, no good thing. In sins have I been conceived and born, in sins have I lived and shall continue to live, as long as I have this sinful flesh. My transgressions are continually before Thee. Thou seest in me more and greater sins, by a thousandfold than I myself can see, know or realize. O Lord, do not enter into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified.

Be gracious unto me, for Jesus Christ, Thy Son my Lord and Savior's sake, and blot out my transgressions according to Thy great mercy—greater than the sins of all mankind. Purge me with hysop, and wash me with the pure blood of Thy Son, which He shed upon the cross. Let me be Thy child and heir, a vessel of Thy grace, and an abode of the Holy Spirit. O Lord, save, comfort, and refresh me with the joy of Thy salvation. Thy holy, joyous and life-giving Spirit lend gladness to my distressed soul and contrite heart. The bruised reed Thou wilt not break, O Lord, and the smoking flax Thou wilt not quench. Thou wilt not cast me away from Thy presence, of this I feel confident. Thou wilt not suffer me to despair, but wilt renew me with Thy right Spirit, who will be kindling and confirming true faith and comfort in my heart. O Lord, my faithful God and Father, hear my prayer, that I may be and remain Thy child and temple now and forever. Let me not fall into error and vices, which war against my conscience. Preserve me from blood-guilt, and from all ills. Give me a constant delight in Thy word, that I may gladly hear it, read it, meditate on it and minister unto others thereby. Grant, that I may speak of it day and night, and that my mouth may show forth Thy righteousness and praise. For all this I will ever love, bless, and praise Thee, my God and Lord, to-

gether with Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and the Holy Spirit, evermore thanking and serving Thee, with all men and angels, to all eternity. Amen.

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A Prayer for Reconciliation with our Neighbor

O MERCIFUL JESUS, Moved by Thy grace I am about to go to Confession and Absolution, for the remission of sins. But I recall Thine earnest words: If thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer the gift. Now unfortunately, I have gotten into a strained relation with my neighbor, therefore, grant me Thy grace and so rule me, that my heart may be inclined to reconciliation. I recognize the hardness of my heart, and acknowledge the difficulty of keeping my flesh and blood in subjection, abstaining from all wrath and desire for revenge. But I desire, yea, I supplicate Thee, O Lord, to take out of my flesh the heart of stone and give me a heart of flesh, a heart of love and reconciliation. Make of me a person

that loves his enemy, blesses those that curse him, does good to those that hate him, and prays for those that despitefully use him and persecute him. O, let me ever be mindful of judgment day and the rigid (strict) account I must render, so that I may abandon the enmity that looks to death and destruction, and agree with mine adversary, while in the way with him, and not let the sun go down upon my wrath. And even as I, in Thy name, pardon and forgive all persons by whom I have been offended, so grant that I may also find those whom I have hurt and provoked willing to pardon and forgive me. O Lord Jesus, forgive us all our sins and so rule our hearts as to live together in a peaceful and Christian spirit, blessing Thy name here in time and hereafter in eternity. Amen.

Brief Instruction on Holy Communion

Why do you intend to go to Holy Communion?

This question each communicant should put to himself, before he approaches the Table of the Lord. For there are not a few who go to the Lord's Supper either quite thoughtlessly and stupidly, or with quite the wrong intention. Some go from mere force of habit; others, only because they are

held to it by their parents; others again, because they consider it a meritorious deed to go to the Lord's Supper; still others, because they wish to acquire or retain before men the appearance and name of a pious Christian. It is no wonder, if such communicants derive no blessing from the Holy Supper, but grow worse as time goes on.

A communicant who wishes to receive the Lord's Supper to his salvation, must, in first place, fully realize what the Lord's Supper is, and for what purpose it was instituted by Christ; and, in second place, he must have a heart worthy and well prepared.

Those have an entirely wrong conception of the Holy Sacrament who consider it merely an empty memorial, instituted only for the purpose of remembering the sufferings and death of Christ. No indeed, Holy Communion is that exalted, blessed mystery, by means of which Christ gives us, in the consecrated bread, his body to eat, and in the consecrated wine, his blood to drink—the very body he assumed from the Virgin Mary, and gave into death on the cross for our sins; and the very blood he shed on the cross for the remission of our sin. True, we cannot see this with our eyes, taste it with our mouth, or grasp it with our mind, but we are to believe it, because our Lord and Savior says: Take and eat, this is my body; drink ye all

of it, this is my blood. This same Savior of ours is true, who will certainly bring to pass what He has promised in the words of His testament; He is of infinite wisdom and knows of ways and means to fulfill his promises, even when beyond our understanding; He too is almighty, with Him nothing is impossible; He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think. If we earnestly believe that we receive the true body and blood of our Savior—true God and man in one person—in Holy Communion, and not mere bread and wine, we shall then approach the Table of the Lord, not thoughtlessly and lightly, but in deepest reverence and humility of heart, saying in the words of the centurion, Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldst come under my roof.

The benefit derived from Holy Communion is of a threefold nature.

In the first place, by a worthy communion we receive forgiveness of sin and the assurance thereof. God, rich in love, has provided a great diversity of means to render poor sinners certain of the forgiveness of their sins. These means are the preaching of the Gospel, Holy Baptism, Absolution and also Holy Communion. Do not be too inquisitive in asking why God has instituted four means instead of one, for the purpose of conveying to us the forgiveness of our sin and making us sure and

certain of this, but rather thank him for these rich provisions. Whoever knows from personal experience how hard it is for a soul under conviction of sin to believe that his sins are forgiven, will realize the greatness of God's grace and providing care in giving us not merely one, but several means of becoming certain of the forgiveness of sin. As surely, therefore, as you, with your mouth, partake of your Lord's body, given into death for the remission of your sins, and partake of your Lord's blood, shed for the remission of your sins, so certain you are to be of having the forgiveness of sin for your own.

The second benefit of Holy Communion is life—not our natural life received at birth and sustained by food and drink, but the new spiritual life that begins in regeneration through Holy Baptism, and consists in faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and in the love of God and our neighbor. But since this new life is weak and imperfect as yet, hence in need of constant growth, our Lord has designated his Holy Supper as a spiritual nourishment for the strengthening of this spiritual life. Of this Luther writes: "Holy Communion is well called a food for the soul, as it nourishes and strengthens the new man; for while we are born again by Baptism, man retains his old nature in his flesh and blood, and there are so many obstacles and temptations on the

part of the devil and the world, that we often grow faint and weary and at times even falter. So the Lord's Supper is given for a daily food and nourishment, that faith may be refreshed and strengthened and not repulsed in this battle, but even grow stronger and stronger; for the new life is of such a nature, that it must constantly grow and progress. Again, this new life has a great deal to endure, for the devil is an enemy of great wrath; when he finds that he cannot take us by a bold stroke, we resisting him and attacking our old Adam, he tries all his wiles, presents all his allurements, and does not desist until he has tired us out, so that we either abandon our faith, or turn listless or impatient. But when our heart is in this condition, being about to succumb, we have the comfort that it can, in this Sacrament be again strengthened and refreshed.

The third benefit is eternal salvation; because even as sin, unforgiven, bars us from salvation, so forgiveness of sin opens the door to eternal salvation, "For where there is forgiveness of sin, there is also life and salvation." Now, all depends on communing worthily and well prepared, if we would receive this threefold, salutary benefit. This, however, is not a worthiness according to the law, but according to the gospel. It does not consist in absolute freedom from sin and perfection of life, but rather

in fully realizing our unworthiness and sinfulness, in having a contrite heart that is spiritually poor. in earnestly desiring the forgiveness of sins, also taking comfort in this forgiveness, or at least trying to, in considering our sins great indeed, but relying and depending solely on our Lord Jesus Christ. On the other hand, those are unworthy and ill prepared who either, in the conceit of self-righteousness, fancy they need no forgiveness of sin—like the Pharisee who prayed thus with himself, “Lord, I thank Thee that I am not as other men are”—or who wholly despair of the forgiveness of sin, as did Cain—who said, “My punishment is greater than I can bear,”—and who will not let you relieve them of their thoughts of despair. There is another class of unworthy communicants, who persist in their wicked purposes, and continue to serve sin knowingly, or who live in a state of relentless enmity with their neighbors. When such unworthy communicants receive the Lord’s Supper, they too receive the body and blood of Christ, but they receive it to judgment, and to their greater damnation. For this very purpose St. Paul adds the earnest warning: “Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.” And who-

ever recognizes in himself these marks of an unworthy communicant should not presume to go to the Lord's Table in such condition. We do not mean that he should stay away permanently, but he should forthwith come to himself, and turn penitent from being impenitent.

But are those of weak faith to be classed with the unworthy communicants? Not at all; for such are very welcome guests at Christ's Table, as are indeed weak in faith and frail in walk, but keenly feel their weakness, and yearn to become stronger. Such the Lord will in no wise cast out; He rather invites them, inasmuch as He instituted this Holy Supper, especially for the weak and the frail, that they might gather strength from this spiritual food. To them He says: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," and again, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

Morning Prayer for a Communicant

O LORD JESUS, This morning I rejoice in being privileged, because of Thy great goodness, together with my fellow-Christians, to go to Thy

house; and to partake of Thy body and blood, in, with and under the consecrated bread and wine. Oh, how my soul longeth, yea even fainteth for the courts of the Lord and His altar! As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, my Redeemer. For Thou art my shepherd; I shall not want. O Lord Jesus, even as Thou hast begun the good work in me, a poor wretched sinner, so also mercifully perform it, by the gracious aid of Thy Holy Spirit, unto Thy honor and the welfare and salvation of my soul. O dearest Redeemer, I am indeed not worthy that Thou shouldest come under my roof, but may Thy grace, able to do all things, render me worthy and well prepared, so that Thy true body and blood, a priceless nourishment, may refresh my soul in this heavenly feast of love and joy. Array Thou me, I beseech Thee, in the vestures of salvation and in the garment of the righteousness of true faith, that I may not be found among the guests without wedding garments, but be a worthy guest at Thy Table and partake of all the treasures of grace Thou hast provided. May Thy grace, O Lord Jesus, be and remain with me; even as my hope is continually in Thee. May Thy providence preserve my spirit, my life and my being. And do Thou bestow, O faithful God, what else I may stand in need of in this world and the next.

Thou, who feedest us below!
 Source of all we have or know!
 Grant that with Thy saints above
 We may share Thy feast of love! Amen.

Prayer for a Worthy Communion

BEHOLD, I come, my Savior, upon Thy most affectionate invitation. Let me find grace in Thine eyes, Thou lover of life, For who am I, that Thou callest me so kindly? Though I were holier than the angels, I would not, for that reason, be worthy of this repast; for how could I, being of unclean lips, yea, vile and base, be counted worthy, unless Thou make me worthy? Therefore, answer before I call, and prepare me by Thy grace. Thou hast said: "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out," so take my soul into Thy keeping, according to Thy great compassion. Remember, O Lord Jesus, that I have in my nature much that is evil, and nothing that is good; help me for Thy mercy's sake. Oh, see how poor and wretched I am; O Thou Savior of the world, keep in remembrance Thy faithfulness, and satisfy my heart with grace. How gladly I would appear before Thee in perfect faith

and with due reverence and fervent devotion. But how am I to do this, unless by and through Thee, Thou author and finisher of my faith? Do Thou therefore, grant what is well pleasing to Thee. Graciously remove what displeases Thee, or at least cover it, I humbly pray Thee, with the cloak of Thy righteousness. Blessed is the soul that is acceptable to Thee. Open my eyes, that I may see the wonders of Thy institutions. Awaken my heart, remove from me all foreign thoughts, increase my hope, kindle my affections, render fervent my devotion, cleanse me of all uncleanness and sanctify me wholly, that I may approach Thy Table in cheerful confidence, and with a pure mouth, holy heart and heartfelt desire, partake to the blessing, life, and salvation of my soul. Amen.

A Prayer of Thanks upon Partaking of Holy Communion

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, I render Thee hearty thanks and praise, that Thou hast again cleansed me, a poor sinful being, from mine iniquities, and hast also, for a firm assurance of this cleansing and remission of all my sins, nourished

me with Thy true body and blood. And I furthermore thank Thee, that upon such cleansing, Thou hast again received me, a defiled child, into the loving arms of Thy grace and mercy, and hast presented me to Thy Father, "holy and unblamable in his sight."

And I pray, Thee, with my whole heart and all my strength, graciously to add to these benefits Thy grace, through the action of the Holy Spirit, that I may acknowledge Thy great goodness and mercy, receive it with thanksgiving and heartily laud and praise Thee all the days of my life.

Do Thou, furthermore, by Thy Holy Spirit, so dispose me that I may heartily forgive my neighbor whatever he may have done against me, even as Thou, O Lord, hast altogether cancelled and forgiven all my great and manifold transgressions, yea, hast entirely blotted them out of Thy remembrance.

And finally grant, O Lord, that I may love my neighbor and do deeds of kindness to him with an honest heart; for Thou hast done more for me than I can ever thank Thee for; so that Thou, O holy and faithful God, mayest be extolled and praised by us, now and forevermore, together with the Father and the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer for Preservation from Sin, and for their Remission when Committed

O THOU GOD Of grace and mercy, our dear Father in heaven, moved by grace and divine love, Thou hast given us Thy dear Son, and with Him full salvation and grace. We now pray Thee, dear Father, preserve unto us this precious boon and heavenly gift, even the blessed contemplation of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, so that we do not lose Him through ingratitude, or otherwise be deprived of Him. We are indeed poor, wretched, and frail beings, who fall from one sin into the next; sinning now in thoughts, now in words, now in deeds so that we are in great danger of falling from faith. There is no rest for us, no peace; the devil lies in wait for our thoughts, ever tempting and instigating; the world is on the watch for our words and deeds, for our walk and ways, giving us many an offense and many occasions for sinning; nor is our flesh by any means idle. Besides there are incidental sins, vices and faults, to which we are daily subject, which grievously burden our consciences, and convert the joy of our heart to very sorrow and grief.

Therefore, we pray Thee, Thou God of mercy and grace, be Thou ever our faithful God, though we may have been negligent and thankless, not walking so carefully as we should. Be kind, comforting, gracious, and merciful towards us; reward us not according to our iniquities, but cleanse our heart and conscience by Thy word, that we may serve Thee in sorrow and in joy, and render unto Thee thanks, honor, and praise in time and eternity. Amen.

A Prayer of Meditation on the Sufferings of Christ

O MY DEAR LORD JESUS, When I look upon Thee, how in the Garden Thou wast exceeding sorrowful, and Thy sweat was, as it were, great drops of blood; when I see Thee taken prisoner, bound, mocked, and treated despitefully during that whole night and time of darkness; then in early morning behold Thee, the spotless Lamb, falsely accused, beaten with many stripes, condemned to death, hanged on the cross, Thy hands and feet pierced; yea, every member of Thy holy body wounded—when I behold all this, I see in it nothing but my

sin, guilt, and iniquity, which has driven Thee to this, and on account of which Thou didst subject Thyself to all this anguish, suffering and pain. Alas! I, O Lord, have deserved to suffer all Thou didst endure; I am the cause of it all. How mysterious are God's ways, that the innocent must pay what the guilty has incurred, that the godly must atone for the guilt of the ungodly.

The debts the servant incurred, the Master must pay; what sinful man has laden upon himself his God must bear. O Thou Son of the living God, how great is Thy love and mercy towards us men. What hast Thou not done and suffered, in order to redeem me, a poor lost sinner, and save me from death and eternal damnation! I have transgressed and Thou art stricken; I have sinned, and Thou didst make amends. I have been disobedient, and because of my disobedience Thou must endure this anguish and distress. O Thou Lord of glory, what return am I able to render for all the mercies and all the truth, which Thou hast shown unto me? How can I poor, needy mortal, recompense Thee? O Lord, this debt remains unpaid and cannot be cancelled by anything in heaven or on earth. It is Thy grace and mercy, Thy love and truth, and this will ever remain unrequited by me, a poor sinner. But since I have not wherewithal to pay my debt, I do render Thee most heartfelt thanks for

all Thy mercy towards me, and I will praise and magnify Thy name from henceforth and even for evermore. Amen.

Prayer at Time of Drouth

O FAITHFUL, True and righteous God, Thou hast in Thy word of truth informed us, in a manner most comforting, that an earnest, fervent, faithful, and persevering prayer penetrates the heavens, and not only comes before Thy face without fail, but is effectual and availeth much. Therefore, upon Thy comforting direction, we, Thy needy children, have come into the presence of Thine exalted, divine majesty in this period of unusual and exceedingly protracted heat and drouth with our confident, hearty and most earnest petitions, humbly praying Thee, Thou wouldst graciously hear us according to Thy promise, mercifully turn Thy great wrath from us, give the parched earth again the moisture it needs, by having the quickening rain descend in drops and showers, that the soil may again bring forth and yield the fruits necessary for the substance of our lives, as intended by Thy fatherly care at the time of creation.

And even as in time of old Thou didst, upon the earnest prayer of Thy faithful servant and prophet Elias, open the closed heaven and cause it to rain upon the thirsty earth: so do we now trust that Thou wilt deal mercifully with us in this time of great heat and drought, granting us this our earnest prayer, because of Thy fatherly care for us; through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, our only Redeemer and Savior. Amen.

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Prayer for Sunshine in a Season of Continued Rains

LORD, GOD ALMIGHTY, Thou hast clothed the heavens in darkness and covered the earth as with a shroud; Thou didst, in days of yore visit the world in Thy wrath with the waters of the flood, because of man's vice and wickedness, destroying everything that had life and breath on dry land. At this time we too are being visited, on account of our manifold transgressions and in accordance with Thy stern justice, with unusual rains and with protracted and continued wet weather, greatly to the injury of the fruits of the land. O merciful Father, Thou didst after the flood close

the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens, and didst have the rains to cease; remove from us all our sins and transgressions, and avert the punishment we deserve and let the damaging rains and great waters subside. For the earth is gloomy, and the heavens above are mournful. Look upon that token in the clouds, the rainbow, and remember Thy promise; do Thou grant good and fruitful weather, so that the fruits of the field and the garden be not ruined by the excessive rains and a famine ensue. O Lord, Thou faithful God, who canst not lie, Thou hast said: The waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. Therefore, O Lord, be merciful! Do not have Thy compassion shut out by Thy wrath; do not take Thy grace and mercy from us. Give not unto us dearth of bread; bless our bread, so that we may always have food sufficient and praise Thy name; thus we shall see that we are truly Thy children, for whom Thou dost faithfully provide, and honor and praise Thee, as our heavenly Father, all the days of our lives. Amen.

Prayer for the Fruits of the Field

DEAR LORD GOD, Graciously preserve the precious fruits of the field, purify the air, grant quickening rains and good weather, that our crops may mature, and we and our stock may not, by eating them, take pestilence, fever and other ills; for such plagues come when evil spirits poison the air and thereupon the fruits, wine and grain, so that we by Thy visitation eat and drink sickness and death with our own products. Therefore, O Lord, bless unto us these Thy gifts, that they may advance our health and well-being, and grant that we do not misuse them to the injury of our soul and the multiplying of sins, such as intemperance and idleness, from which unchastity, adultery, cursing, swearing, murder, war, and all manner of ills come; but grant us grace that we may use Thy gifts to our soul's salvation and the improvement of our lives and that the fruits of the land may be a means of sustaining and improving the health of our body and soul. Amen.

Prayer During a Thunderstorm

O GOD, Almighty and powerful in heaven and on earth, we are reminded by Thy present thundering and lightning that Thou art very wroth with us sinful mortals. By this resounding noise, at which all creatures tremble and are terrified, Thou dost, as by a veritable mourner's bell, call us to a knowledge of our sins and to true repentance, that we may not be condemned with the evil wicked world. Thou, O Lord, art so mighty and powerful that Thou couldst instantly destroy the whole world with a single stroke of lightning, if Thou wouldst deal according to stern justice. But we bend our knees and humbly beseech Thee to cease from Thy fierce wrath, which is kindled against our sins like a fire. Have compassion on us, spare us, lift up Thy face upon us and be gracious unto us. Preserve our body and life, house and home, city and country, our property and all our belongings, also the fruits of the field, from hail, lightning, great floods and all harm. Keep us also from a sudden evil death and graciously grant that many sinners, deterred from their ungodly walks and ways by Thy word, Thy thunder and

lightning, may turn in heart and be converted unto Thee. Let us at all hours and moments be mindful of Thy glorious coming to judgment and be prepared to receive Thee with joy and to enter eternal bliss with Thee, Amen. O Lord, be merciful and gracious unto us poor sinners in our body and soul, both in this life and the one to come. Amen.

A Prayer of Thanks after the Thunderstorm

ALMIGHTY GOD, Heavenly Father, who hast said unto us, "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify me," we render Thee heartfelt thanks and praise for having graciously heard our prayer and caused the wild storm to pass by without injury to us in person or property. In this wise Thou hast again, like as a father shown, Thy faithful heart towards us, in that Thou dost not deal with us after our sins, nor reward us according to our iniquities. Grant unto us, O Father of grace, for the sake of Thine only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, that we may constantly amend our walk because of these earnest admonitions, live in Thy fear henceforth and pre-

pare for the coming of Thy dear Son, in order that we may meet Him in gladness, enter the new heaven, in which righteousness dwells, with joy and rejoicing, and eternally possess it with Thee in blissful contemplation of Thyself, through the same, Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer in Great Weakness of Faith

O LORD, I now realize in very truth that not every man hath faith. I believe, O Lord, but help my unbelief! Do not break the bruised reed, nor quench the smoking flax. O Jesus Christ, Thou who sittest at the right hand of God make intercession for me that my faith fail not. Be the author and finisher of my faith, that I may be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Though I see not, let me yet believe and thus be saved. Amen.

A Prayer in Great Distress and Danger

O ALMIGHTY GOD And Father, ever ready to help, Thou seest and knowest that we live in great distress and danger, we knowing of neither counsel nor help and finding in us no power nor ability of escaping this great trouble. So our eyes are turned to Thee, our only comfort, refuge and helper, who hast said, "Call upon me in the day of trouble, I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." Our heart submits to Thy word of promise, and now seeks Thy face in childlike humility and confidence. O Lord, hide not Thy gracious face from us, and cast not Thy children from Thee in wrath; do not Thou forsake us nor withdraw Thy hand from us, God, our salvation, who workest salvation to the ends of the earth. Therefore, let us experience Thy help and be Thou gracious unto us. In Thee, O Lord, our soul trusts and under the shadow of Thy wings we find refuge until these dangers have passed by. Turn Thou again to us and satisfy us early with Thy mercy, then shall we offer the sacrifice of praise and bless Thy name, for it is good. Make us glad according to the days wherein Thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil. Stand Thou by

us in trouble, so shall we praise Thee and rejoice over Thy help all the days of our life. Amen.

A Prayer of Thanks after a Safe Journey

O GRACIOUS GOD, Heavenly Father, to Thee I render thanks from the inmost of my heart that Thou hast granted me a safe journey and, by the protection of Thy dear angels, hast brought me back to my family, which has made our hearts glad. It is due to Thy fatherly care that I have been preserved from all harm, not having been killed by robbers or wild animals, nor having perished or suffered injury in floods or other dangers. I have been led in safety and good health to my journey's end and back again, as was young Tobias by the angel Raphael. For all this I owe thanks to Thy fatherly care and almighty protection, and I heartily pray Thee, that Thou wouldest graciously extend to me and my family Thine almighty protection, and sustain body and soul by Thy power unto life eternal, for Christ Jesus' sake. Amen.

Thanks for Deliverance from Afflictions

I THANK THEE LORD, My God, with my whole heart, and honor Thy name continually. I shall render thanks unto Thee forever, for Thou hast done all things well. Behold, for peace I had great bitterness, but Thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption. In my distress I called unto Thee and Thou hast heard my voice, and my cry did enter into Thine ears, and Thou hast comforted me. Thou hast faithfully stood by me, graciously upheld my soul, and finally, as a father, delivered me out of my great tribulations. O my Lord and my God, how shall I requite Thee for all the benefits Thou daily bestowest upon me? I will praise Thy name as long as I live; I will extol Thee in the presence of all Thy people, Thy glory shall continually be in my mouth. O Thou faithful God, help me, by Thy Spirit, to pay my vows, and never to forget what Thou hast done for my soul, that I do not only spread Thy praise while in this mortal frame, but also sing everlasting hallelujahs to Thy praise with the elect in heaven. Amen.

Morning Prayer for a Sick Person

O THOU Faithful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I thank and praise Thee for having, during the past night, so graciously kept, protected and refreshed me with sleep, and I heartily pray Thee, in the name of Jesus Christ, to turn to me in mercy this day and all the remaining days of my life, to pardon mine iniquity, to comfort me by Thy grace, to strengthen me by Thy power, to guide me by Thy Holy Spirit, that I may live and suffer according to Thy will. I commend my sick body and my precious soul into Thy hands. Thy holy angel be with me, that the wicked one may have no power nor influence over me; through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, my only comfort and Savior, in the power of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Another Morning Prayer for a Sick Person

I COMMIT Myself this day and all the days of my life to Thee, God, the eternal Father, who hast created me; to Thee, God, the eternal Son, who hast redeemed me; to Thee, God the Holy Ghost,

who hast sanctified me in my baptism. O eternal divinity, O true humanity, O Holy Trinity, render Thou me fit at all times to enter eternal bliss. Amen.

O Benignant and merciful God and Father, by Thy grace I have again passed the night and have lived to see glad daylight once more. I thank Thee that Thou hast been my guard and keeper, my comforter and helper; that Thou hast, as a father, sustained my frail body and my downcast soul; that Thou hast preserved me from a sudden death, great temptations and other ills; and that Thou hast, by Thy holy angels, powerfully protected me against the devil, the prince of darkness. It is due to Thy mercy and grace that I still live. Do Thou also this day, I heartily pray Thee, turn Thy face unto me, and so guard and guide me that nothing sinful be in my thoughts, words, or actions. Lead me, Thy needy sheep, in the paths of Thy holy word, which is my only comfort in my distress. Preserve me, O Lord, for I trust in Thee; Thou art my only strength, my God, and my greatest treasure. Do Thou direct my mind and desire towards fearing and also loving Thee, dispelling all that does not emanate from Thee. Hide me in Thee, that in my cross and my distress I may submit my will to Thee and trust in Thee alone, since no man can counsel or save me. But Thou art the true physician

of all sick, the true comfort for all in distress, the only salvation of the dying. Do Thou heal me, comfort me and save me, O heavenly Father! Especially do Thou this day preserve me from sin and all evil, from the wiles of the devil, from the offenses of the world and the evil lusts of my own sinful flesh. Grant unto me patience, hope and perseverance. And when the time of my sojourning is at an end, give me an easy and blessed death through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, my Savior. Amen.

Evening Prayer for a Sick Person

O LORD GOD, My Father, I thank Thee for Thy gracious assistance during this day, and I earnestly pray Thee, succor me, a weak and sick person, during this approaching night, with Thy grace, with Thy power, with Thy comfort, with Thy Spirit. Into Thy hands I commend my body and soul. Thy holy angel be with me that the wicked one may have no power over me; through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, our Lord. Amen.

Another Evening Prayer for a Sick Person

O ALMIGHTY And merciful God, beloved Father, Thou hast said, "Call upon me in the day of trouble, I will deliver thee," I now beseech Thee in this evening hour, have mercy upon me and remit all my sins, wherewith possibly I have offended Thee during the day. I commend myself to Thee for the approaching night, that my soul may find rest in Thee though my body be in pain. Graciously prevent a sudden death without the saving knowledge of Thy dear Son. If it be Thy gracious will, let me rest without pain of body or distress of soul, and suffer me to see the morrow. But if this is to be my last night on earth, and Thou, in Thy unsearchable counsel, hast decreed to summon me hence, I humbly pray Thee, Thou wouldest let me enter the eternal day of heaven and make me a doorkeeper in Thy kingdom. In Thy name I now go to sleep. Whether I awaken to natural or eternal life, I will heartily love and praise Thee, my faithful God. Amen, In Jesus' name, Amen.

A Prayer in Sickness

O THOU Merciful and gracious God and Father, I acknowledge and confess to Thee, that I have not spent my life (which I received from Thee) profitably and to Thy honor, but to the satisfying of the desires of my flesh, having served myself and the world more than Thee. O Lord, I am heartily sorry for having spent the short time of my life to such bad purpose, and I now see that Thou dost visit me on account of my sins in sending upon me this sickness, in order to call me to repentance. Thou dost judge me in equity, O Lord, and dost chastise me, that I be not condemned with the wicked world. By this sickness Thou dost remind me of my mortal state, teaching me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is. Surely every man walketh in a vain show; he heapeth up riches and knoweth not who shall gather them. And now, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee, Deliver me from my transgressions. I know, O Lord, that my times are in Thy hand, Thou hast written all my members in Thy book, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there were none of them. My substance was not hid from Thee, when I was curiously wrought in my mother's

womb. Since now it is Thy will that I should be sick, let me gladly submit to this Thy will. O Lord, Thine arrows stick fast in me, and Thy hand presseth me sore. There is no soundness in my flesh, because of Thine anger, neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sins; for my sins cover me and as a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. O my God, preserve my soul from all temptations, and let this sickness of the body act as a remedy for the restoring of my soul. Do Thou keep my heart and mind, and protect me against the fiery darts of the devil with Thy shield and buckler by the peace of my Lord Jesus Christ. Thou knowest, O Lord, that I am the work of Thy hands, Thou hast formed me out of the clay; we are the clay, and Thou our potter. Alas, how I am broken to pieces! Therefore, O Lord, spare me; Thou wilt not cast away nor in Thy wrath destroy the work of Thy hand; Thou hast separated me from my mother's womb, Thou didst make me hope, when I was upon my mother's breasts, Thou art the Lord and the giver of my life and hast power to take it again according to Thy pleasure. If it be Thy will, show mercy unto me as Thou didst to king Hezekiah, adding fifteen years to his life. Behold, for peace, I have great bitterness; in love keep my soul and deliver it from the pit of corruption and cast all my sins behind Thy back.

Should this sickness not be unto death, then restore me to health; for I am very frail. O Lord Jesus Christ, Thou heavenly physician, take me into Thy treatment, relieve my pain, heal me by Thy wounds, and let Thy bitter sufferings and death be my restoration. O Lord, let me touch the hem of Thy garment, namely, Thy word and sacrament, in which Thou art wrapped up, and restore me by the power proceeding from Thee. But if it be Thy will that in this sickness I shall go the way of all flesh, be it so, for I am no better than my fathers, only, O Lord, let Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel. Amen.

Prayer of Contrition in Sickness

O ALMIGHTY GOD And Father, who dost visit men because of their sins, with divers plagues, especially bodily sickness, in order to chastise them, lest they be condemned with the world: I come to Thee laden with sin and confess that I have deserved not only this sickness, but also eternal dam-

nation, being not only by nature a child of wrath and sold under sin, but having times untold transgressed all Thy commandments. But I take refuge in Thy boundless mercy and humbly pray Thee, enter not into judgment with me, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions, but for Thy name's sake pardon mine iniquity, for it is great. Remove Thy stroke away from me and hearken unto the voice of my cry, hold not Thy peace at my tears. Spare me that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more. Behold, dear Father, for peace, I have great bitterness, in love deliver my soul from the pit of corruption and cast all my sins behind Thy back. And do Thou also regard my bodily sickness, either removing or alleviating it by Thy comfort; grant patience, help me carry my cross, and save my soul. I submit to Thy will, do Thou as it seemeth good unto Thee, for Thine I am and would remain. Amen.



Brief Prayers for the Sick—For Each Hour of the Day

1

AT ONE O'CLOCK

O THOU One true God, my Father and Creator, from whom health and sickness, prosperity and adversity proceed, since it is Thy fatherly will that I am to bear so protracted a sickness and cross, grant unto me Christian patience and constant hope. I know Thou art my constant and beloved Father, both in days of adversity and prosperity. I know it behooves all true Christians to endure tribulation and to bear their cross; why then should I desire to be exempt? And did not Jesus Christ, my Head and my Savior, have to suffer for me? O my God and benevolent Father, keep me true to Thy word and let it ever be my best cordial and comfort. Amen.

2

AT TWO O'CLOCK

O DEAREST LORD JESUS, My faithful Mediator and Savior, full well do I know, that I have richly deserved this bodily infirmity and my other afflictions. But I take comfort in Thy inexhaust-

ible grace and precious atonement, whereby Thou hast redeemed me, body and soul. May my body fare as it will, I am fully convinced that my body and soul, placed beyond the power of hell, shall attain to eternal life and be endowed with the glory and health of heaven. To this end, O Lord Jesus, grant me Thine aid. Amen.

3

AT THREE O'CLOCK

O HOLY SPIRIT, Thou dearest friend of my soul and most truthful witness of my heritage to heaven, and my eternal salvation. I humbly pray Thee, continue to dwell in my heart throughout my protracted sickness and strengthen me with Thy divine comfort, that I may remain steadfast in Thy pure word and the most venerable sacraments. Preserve in me faith, love and hope, these three pillars of my Christian life, and reveal to me, in its fullness, God's paternal pleasure towards me, to the end that I may quietly submit, being Thine in life and death. Amen.

4

AT FOUR O'CLOCK

O THOU Faithful God, teach me to number my days, and I shall guard against sin. Grant unto

me a happy death; acquit me on the day of judgment; preserve me from damnation; take me into life everlasting. Even in death I shall lie down and sleep in peace. On the final day help me to escape hell and to enter heaven. Let my heart receive the seeds of the divine word, keep them and take comfort from them, until Thou shalt come and take me unto Thyself. Amen.

5

AT FIVE O'CLOCK

O DEAREST JESUS, Where else shall I find refuge in my pain and tribulation but in Thy holy five wounds! That will be my safest place of refuge, when I shall sink into unconsciousness. I abide in Thee: do Thou also abide in me. Provide the lamp of my heart with the oil of true faith, and prepare me by a Christian repentance to meet Thee with joy at Thy coming, and to participate in the joys of the eternal wedding feast, together with all **the** elect. Amen.

6

AT SIX O'CLOCK

O MY DEAR GOD And Father, I thank Thee that Thou hast created me in Thy image, and hast given me a human body and a rational mind, and

I pray Thee, Thou wouldest not forsake me, Thy creature, in my present distress, but care for me as a father and rescue me by Thy power. My tribulation is grievous and each day has a burden of its own, but I know Thou wilt finally deliver me from all evil. In Thee, O Lord, do I hope; let me never be confounded. Amen

7

AT SEVEN O'CLOCK

O GOD, My heavenly Father, Thou didst rest on the seventh day of creation, do Thou rest also in my heart and keep Thy Sabbath in it, Thou, the only rest and comfort of my soul. O Lord Jesus, let the seventh and last word spoken by Thee on the cross, also be my last utterance when in travail of death, that I may commend my spirit to Thee, my heavenly Father.

O HOLY SPIRIT, Thou teacher and spirit of prayer, enkindle in me that constant devotional spirit, that I may, by means of the holy Lord's Prayer, the seven penitential Psalms and other prayers and devotions, present my wants and needs to the Lord and be graciously heard by Him. Amen.

AT EIGHT O'CLOCK

O DEAREST LORD JESUS, Thou who already on the eighth day of Thy sojourn here on earth, didst begin to endure pain for me and to shed Thy blood, grant unto me a disposition willing to endure pain in patience and to Thy glory, and gladden me with the hope that Thou wilt safely keep my soul in the waters of great tribulation, even as Thou didst the eight souls in the ark of Noah. Let me be among the eight groups Thou didst pronounce blessed, I being poor in spirit, patient in tribulation, meek toward mine enemies, hungry and thirsty after righteousness, charitable towards needy Christians, pure in heart, peaceable towards my neighbor, and steadfast in persecution. O may I, in this school of patience, advance through all grades to be translated finally to the blessed school of everlasting life, where I shall forever love and praise Thee, together with the Father and Holy Ghost. Amen.

AT NINE O'CLOCK

O MY DEAREST LORD JESUS, Thy suffering, though so grievous, came to a blessed end, Thou being delivered through a happy death. Oh,

grant the same to me, and put an end to my protracted sufferings. For this I shall praise, extol, and magnify Thee. Now I know Thou wilt ever be mindful of me, and my hope will never be lost in despair. While on this earth I am a member of Thy Church Militant, oh, let me be and remain a member of Thy Church Triumphant in heaven. Amen.

10

AT TEN O'CLOCK

O THOU Just and gracious God and Father, I confess with frankness and sorrow that I have not only been conceived and born in sin, but that I have also frequently transgressed Thy Holy Ten Commandments in thoughts, words and deeds, thereby fully deserving both this my temporal cross and also everlasting punishment.

But since Thy most blessed Son, my faithful Savior Jesus Christ, has, with his precious merits and holy blood, fully atoned for all my sins, original and actual, I pray Thee on His account to be gracious unto me and not to add eternal punishment to my temporal chastisement.

And so incline me by Thy Holy Spirit that I be separate from the great multitude of the ungodly, and ever strive after true faith and those good

Christian works that proceed therefrom. Especially do Thou grant that I be patient in tribulation, fight a good fight, keep the faith and a good conscience and at last live in Thy tabernacle eternally. Grant relief to me in my sufferings, if it be Thy holy will, and so lighten my cross that I may bear it.

11

AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK

O THOU Faithful Lord Jesus, who hast after Thy resurrection often and powerfully comforted Thy sorrowing disciples, and dost kindly ask all the weary and heavy-laden to come unto thee, promising to give them rest: oh, come also unto me in my sickness, comfort and refresh me, Thou my only refuge, comfort, and support. I yearn for the repose of a happy death, and have a desire for the joyous resurrection of my body. Oh, let me experience both, the sooner the better, and I will forever praise Thee, with the Father and Holy Ghost. Amen.

12

AT TWELVE O'CLOCK

O DEAREST LORD JESUS, I render Thee heartfelt thanks that Thou hast revealed Thyself

unto me in the writings of the holy prophets and apostles, to the end that I might believe on Thee and through faith in Thee have eternal life. I pray Thee to keep me steadfast in the true faith, that I may reach the end of faith, namely eternal bliss. And render Thou me watchful and well prepared, so that when Thou, my heavenly bridegroom dost come, I may meet Thee with joy and with Thee enter the heavenly bridal chamber, when I shall in truth love and praise Thee. Amen.

Thank Offering after Recovery

I THANK THEE, Lord God Almighty, that, because of my sins, Thou hast like a father visited and chastened me. Yea, Lord, it is good for me that Thou hast humbled me, that I may learn Thy ways. O my God, like king Hezekiah, I, too, have often thought: Mine age is departed, and is removed from me as a shepherd's tent; I have cut off like a weaver my life; he will cut off with pinning sickness; from day even to night wilt Thou make an end of me. But I see my God, that my sickness was not unto death, but to the glory of God, in order that Thou my Lord Jesus Christ, be

magnified thereby.

For Thou hast been merciful unto me, and hast made rich provisions for my soul.

All my sins Thou didst cast behind Thee, and my life Thou didst prolong. How well Thou didst remove my sickness, and how graciously Thou didst help me. I render thanks unto Thee, yea, I thank Thee from the inmost of my heart, that Thou hast strengthened and restored me, so that I can again behold Thy holy temple, go my way, and attend to my occupation.

It is Thy goodness, O Lord, that has prolonged my days. O how often I shall recall Thy chastening rod, and be on my guard all the days of life, lest I incur Thy wrath.

Help me now, O Lord my God, to begin a new life with my renewed state of health.

Grant that I may at all times magnify Thy name, and let Thy praise evermore be in my mouth. Guide me by Thy Holy Spirit, that I may live to thy honor, and not yield my members as instruments of unrighteousness to serve sin, but as instruments of righteousness to serve Thee, my God. And I shall in Thy congregation sing songs of praise and glory to Thee all the days of my life. Amen.

Three Prayers in the Hour of Death

A Prayer to God the Father

O GOD ALMIGHTY, Thou Father of mercy and God of all comfort, have mercy on me as a father has mercy on his children. Remember that Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, became man for my sake. Remember Thou didst so love the world, that Thou gavest Thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

In this faith my soul cometh to Thee, bringing with it Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast given me. For His sake remember me and receive me into Thy grace. To Thee do I commend my soul. Let me, Thy dear child, forever, remain in Thy grace and show Thou mercy unto me, while I live and when I die; for the sake of Thy dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

2

A Prayer to God the Son

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, my only comfort and my only help, Thou hast borne my sickness and wast wounded for my iniquity. Thou art the Lamb

of God that takest away the sins of the world.

Be Thou my righteousness, my sanctification, and my redemption. Heal my wounds with Thy stripes. Let Thy innocent blood not be shed in vain for me, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Do not forsake me in the hour of death, but help me through it to life eternal.

Remember that I am Thy frail sheep and Thou my faithful shepherd. Take me upon Thine arms and bear me into Thy paradise of bliss.

Let me behold the joy of Thy countenance and Thy glory. Amen.

3

A Prayer to God the Holy Ghost

O GOD THE HOLY GHOST, Thou only comfort of the distressed, strengthen and comfort my fainting and sorrowful heart. Preserve the faith Thou dost kindle in my heart and quench not the smoking flax. Guard me from the attacks of the evil one.

Let not my heart tremble nor despair at the sight of death; restrain my impatience, and make me inclined to yield to Thy will, O God, my Lord. Help me bring my life to a happy and joyful close. Keep my heart and mind in the peace of my Lord

Jesus Christ. And when I am no longer able to speak, then preserve and seal the memory of the holy name of Jesus Christ in my heart; and with it let me fall asleep in peace. Amen.

A Prayer of Those Present for a Person in the Agonies of Death

O ALMIGHTY And benignant God, who art our stay and staff in the shadow of death, we pray Thee to visit this sick person, his body and soul, with Thy mercy, and graciously to forgive all his sins. Take the sacrifice of the innocent death of Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, as payment for his transgressions, since he was baptized in Christ's name and cleansed by His blood. Therefore, deliver him, we pray Thee, from bodily pains or shorten them; sustain him against the accusations of conscience and all attacks of the wicked one, that he may fight a good fight and overcome. Grant him a blessed departure for the life everlasting, send Thy holy angels that they escort him to the gathering of the elect in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Another Prayer

LORD, Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word: for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

A Short Litany together with Prayers for a Dying Person

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy upon this sick person!

Lord God Father in heaven,

Lord God Son, Redeemer of the world,

Lord God Holy Ghost,

Holy Trinity, eternal God,

Have mercy upon him!

Lord, be merciful and save this dying person!
 From the evil spirit,
 From the cunning and crafts of the devil,
 From all ills,
 From the pains of hell,

Preserve him, dear Lord God!

By Thy holy incarnation and birth;
 By Thine agony of death and bloody sweat;
 By Thy cross and bitter death;
 By Thy holy resurrection and ascension;
 By the grace of the Holy Ghost;
 At his last end;
 At the last day;
 At the last judgment;

Help him, dear Lord God.

We poor sinners beseech Thee to hear us, good
 Lord,

And comfort this sick person;
 Pardon all his sins;
 And give him life eternal after this misery;

We beseech Thee, to hear us, good Lord!

O Christ hear us!

O Thou Lamb of God that hath taken away the
 sins of the world, have mercy upon this
 dying person and give him eternal peace!

O Lord, have mercy!

O Christ, have mercy!

O Lord, have mercy upon him!

OUR FATHER, Who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen!

Prayer

ALMIGHTY, ETERNAL GOD, Heavenly Father, comfort and strengthen this Thy creature, and save him (her) through Thy goodness; deliver him (her) from all anguish and distress; release him (her) in Thy grace, and take him (her) unto Thee in Thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son; our only Lord, Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

Another Prayer

ALMIGHTY, ETERNAL GOD, Have compassion on the anxious sighs and groanings of this dying person, receive him (her) into Thy kingdom, that Thou hast in mercy prepared for him (her)

and all believers from the beginning of the world. Graciously release him (her), O Lord, and comfort him (her) eternally with the elect; through Thy dear Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

64

A Prayer after the Patient has Departed in the Lord

THANKS And praise be rendered now and forevermore to Christ Jesus, Lord of glory and Prince of life, for having so graciously delivered this sainted brother (sister), and received his (her) soul into His holy hands. We pray Him to reunite the soul with the body in heavenly brightness on the last day, and to grant unto us a godly walk and an equally happy departure at the time appointed of God. Restore, O Lord, all distressed hearts with sweet comfort and keep all of us perpetually in Thy grace for the sake of Thy eternal mercy and goodness. Amen, O Thou most holy and exalted Trinity. Amen! Amen!

APPENDIX I.

PRAYERS FOR THE FESTIVAL DAYS

1

Prayer at Beginning of a New Church Year

O THOU Eternal God and faithful Father, upon entering a new church year we render Thee humble thanks above all for all the spiritual benefits received at Thy hands during the past year. Thou hast suffered us to retain Thy holy word and the public preaching thereof, together with the Holy Sacraments, while we by our ingratitude have fully deserved that we should be deprived of such blessings; for we are no better and have sinned no less against Thee than many of our brethren at other places, from whom, in Thy just judgment, Thou hast either wholly withdrawn the word and preaching of Thy gospel or greatly curtailed it. And it appears that also at many other places Thou art about to remove the light of Thy word in pursuance of Thy judgment. O Lord, we are not at all worthy of all the mercies Thou hast shown unto

us, Thine unprofitable servants, treating us, to this day, with such longsuffering. We now pray Thee, forgive all our sins wherewith in the past church year we have transgressed against Thee, either by doing what was wrong, or by failing to do what was right. As the first mark of Thy grace, cancel, we pray Thee, our sins of the past church year with the blood of Thy dear Son, and in order to render us worthy of this grace, engender in our hearts true repentance, so that we do not carry any unforgiven sins over into the new church year, sins that we are not by Thy power willing entirely to abandon. Preserve unto us, also in the future, Thy holy Word and Sacraments, and thus the kingdom of Thy Son, and do not suffer the enemy to deprive us of this great blessing and to extend his kingdom of darkness among us. And in this do not look upon any worthiness of ours, but rather upon this that the honor of Thy Son be not blasphemed by the enemies, who fancy to have wrecked Thy kingdom among us. Preserve all our faithful teachers and preachers, whom Thou hast given us and bestow upon them in this church year new light and the power of Thy Holy Spirit, that they may in Thy presence and power proclaim to us Thy word in its truth and purity, without the adulteration of anything human. Grant also to them at all times wisdom and insight rightly to determine

what is most necessary to be discussed in public discourse.

Do Thou, therefore, not suffer them to speak what they please, but do Thou guide their tongues and hearts to speak at all times, what is pleasing unto Thee. Give efficacy to Thy word and to Thy holy Sacraments that also in this church year we may behold in them the blessed means of our salvation, which saves our souls. Confirm anew the good Thou didst already in the past year effect in the hearts of Thy people, quickening Thy Word in them, and let this word continue to show its efficacy in instructing the simple, in converting the unregenerate, in convincing the malicious, in strengthening the souls that already know Thee, the number of which Thou wouldst, we pray Thee, increase also this year, according to Thy good pleasure. Grant also to all hearers of Thy word, that they receive it from the mouths of their ministers with attention and meekness not only, but that they, when hearing the word at all times submit their hearts to you in such quietness and meekness as will permit the Holy Spirit to accomplish the work of faith in them, to the end that all live a life before Thee in this church year more holy than formerly. Especially do Thou grant grace, that a firm foundation of the knowledge of the truth be laid among us, so that it may become a

living knowledge, which praises Thee by its fruits and we come to know in very deed that this is life eternal, that Thou, Father, art the only true God and whom Thou hast sent is Jesus Christ, life everlasting. Amen.

2

Prayer for the Advent Season

O THOU LORD Of glory and God over all, blessed forever, to Thee I render heartfelt thanks, both for all Thy great and unspeakable blessings, and also for this that out of love beyond measure Thou didst descend to us poor mortals in this vale of tears from the throne of Thy divine majesty, in order to preserve us lost and condemned sinners from the pit that hath no water. I praise Thee, O Jesus, Thou king of glory, with all my strength and energies, that Thou didst come upon this earth only to this end to deliver us from our enemies, from sin, death, hell and the devil, and with Thy holy blood to effect an eternal reconciliation between Thy heavenly Father and us, and by Thy precious merits to regain for us our lost righteousness. Hosanna, O Lord, save now, O Lord, send now prosperity! Amen.

A Christmas Prayer

O MERCIFUL, Eternal God, heavenly Father, we, Thy children thank Thee from the inmost of our hearts, that Thou hast so faithfully kept Thy promise and didst turn to us Thy heart of fatherly love, in sending to us the highest Good, Thine only begotten Son, for our Savior, and making us acceptable in Thy Beloved.

O Christ Jesus, Thou eternal Son of God, we honor, praise and magnify Thee, that Thou on this festal day didst become our brother and Emmanuel, that is, God with us; that out of unspeakable love, Thou hast befriended us and clothed Thyself with the garb of our flesh and blood. In no wise didst Thou assume the nature of angels, but the seed of Abraham, our human nature, that is but earth and ashes and dust, Thou didst so honor as to unite Thyself with it personally, inseparably and eternally. Thou wast conceived without sin and born into this world by a pure and chaste virgin; thus Thou didst sanctify and consecrate our sinful and impure conception and birth, that it may not be harmful to us, we being by nature the children of wrath, conceived in sin, and flesh born of flesh. Thou wast born in a stable and didst lie in the

manger on straw in abject poverty and Thou didst not take offense, so that, having enriched our souls, Thou couldst make us great lords in Thy heavenly mansion. Thou hast humiliated Thyself in order to exalt us; Thou didst come down upon this earth, that we might go up to Thee in heaven.

O GOD, The Holy Ghost, our highest teacher and comforter, we to-day offer Thee the sacrifice of our lips, heartily thanking Thee that Thou hast revealed unto us this great "mystery of godliness"; and as the angels proclaimed and chanted it to the shepherds on the field, even so dost Thou proclaim it to us through Thy Word and Thy servants. Glory be to Thee, O God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, in the highest, peace on earth and good will towards men. Grant, O faithful God and Father that sharing in the benefits of the human birth of Thy dear Son and delivered from the evil results of our sinful birth, we may be and remain newborn children of Thy grace and heirs of Thy kingdom.

O dearest Jesus mine,
Do Thou in my heart's shrine,
As on a bed incline,
That I be ever Thine.

Do Thou, O God the Holy Ghost, bring it about that this our Savior be spiritually born and grow in us at present and ever after. Help us also to

rejoice over this birth and find comfort in it amidst all temptations, to suffer all things patiently and to gain the victory, so that we may honor, praise and glorify Thee with all the angels of God, here in time and hereafter in eternity. Amen.

4

A Prayer on New Year's Day

WE HAVE Again, O Triune God, by Thy grace arrived at the end of another year of our frail life and wearisome pilgrimage on earth, and we to-day in Thy name begin a new year. O Lord, how unspeakably great is Thy goodness, how innumerable the many blessings Thou hast shown unto me and mine in time past, though we have not deserved aught but Thy wrath and punishment because of our sins. In Thy holy Church Thou hast preserved Thy precious Word and Sacraments; in the government, peace and concord in matters material Thou hast bestowed Thy blessing and prosperity, and hast favored body and soul abundantly with every manner of blessing. Owing to Thy paternal care, Thy Church has been preserved from false doctrine and persecution on account of the true faith, our country was not invaded by an enemy, nor de-

vastated by a plague; our homes were not exposed to perils of fire or flood, in short no dire calamity was permitted to overtake us, thanks to Thy faithful providence. How am I to find words adequate for Thy praise? How can I properly show my gratitude? Behold, O Lord, at the close of the old year I offer unto Thee the sacrifice of my lips, and glorify Thy grace and mercy with all my strength and powers. My soul shall honor Thee, my spirit must praise Thee, my mouth shall thank Thee, and all that is within me shall proclaim Thy glory. I prostrate myself before Thee in penitence, and, with a contrite heart, I confess unto Thee all my sins—those I was conceived and born in and those with which I offended Thee, not only during the past year, but also all the days of my life.

Dearest Father, do Thou not count these old sins against me to my damnation, and do not in Thy wrath remember my former transgressions, but graciously forgive and forget them because of the wounds of Thy most dearly beloved Son. O Jesus, my precious Savior, be merciful unto me a sinner, and, by virtue of Thy merits, remove like mist all my transgressions, cast them into the sea of Thine innocent blood, that they may never again come to light or before the judgment of God. O God, Holy Spirit, do Thou renew me as to the inner man, that I may not take any old sin or impurity over into

the new year, but that I may to-day begin a new life and partake anew of Thy grace. O Thou Triune God, do Thou remit all punishments—though well deserved—for former sins, and continue to bless me and mine with all spiritual and temporal blessings and in gifts earthly and heavenly. Let Thy grace rise anew over us every morning, and do good unto all that in this new year take refuge with Thee and wait upon Thy goodness. Preserve unto us Thy precious word, which is our heart's joy and comfort. Enlighten our teachers and ministers, and grant Thine increase from heaven to their sacred labors. Strengthen our faithful rulers, and prosper them in such purposes as are good and well-pleasing to Thee. Bless the parents, and let the work of their hands prosper. Fill our souls with fear of God, and grant to our hearts the joy in the Holy Ghost. Bestow health upon our bodies and peace within our borders. Crown this year with Thy goodness, and give unto us the necessities of life. Preserve Thy Church from error in doctrine and life; our country from war, famine, and pestilence; our homes from devouring flames and all damage and danger; the fruits of the field from hail and tempest. Curb the wrath and fury of Satan, and send Thy heavenly hosts to protect and guard us in all our ways. Convert our enemies, restrain all persecutors, succor the op-

pressed, provide for the poor, feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, liberate those wrongly imprisoned, comfort the unhappy, gladden the sorrowing, strengthen the weak, care for the sick, have mercy upon the widows and orphans, rescue the oppressed, guide those travelling, and accompany the dying from death into life. Lord, teach us to do according to Thy good pleasure, and Thy good Spirit lead us on an even path, so that we may walk before Thee in faith, patience, and hope, in godliness, honesty, and forbearance, in meekness, chastity and all Christian virtues, and when we commit sin, chasten us like a father; when our sins cause us anxiety, comfort us with Thy grace, and Thy joyful Spirit uphold us. When Satan attacks us, stand by us; when the world persecutes us, take us into Thy protection; when flesh and blood would overpower us, strengthen us in spirit; when we err, bring us back to the truth. When we fall, raise us by Thy hand. When we become weak and weary in our duties, refresh us. When we are in distress and danger, deliver us. When we are sick and weary, be Thou our physician. If, according to Thy will, we are to go hence during this year, we commend our souls into Thy hands. Oh Lord! hear us, O Lord! have mercy, O Lord, give ear unto us and bring it to pass for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Prayer on Epiphany

O DEAREST LORD JESUS, Thou hast in every deed shown Thyself the God of the Gentiles and the Jews, and being the true light for all men that come into this world, Thou wouldest illumine all men unto life eternal. For not only didst Thou, through the guidance of that wonderful star, lead unto Thyself the wise men of the East, that they must honor and adore Thee as their king, but Thou hast brought us poor heathen into Thy kingdom of grace and to the saving knowledge of Thyself, by means of the enlightening power of Thy divine Word. O my Savior, Thy faithfulness and grace shown to us is so great that we can never sufficiently thank Thee. We were without God, strangers and outside the commonwealth of Israel; but Thou hast made us, Thy people, fellow-citizens with the saints and of God's household. We were altogether too blind to know Thee and to find the way to life eternal, but Thou, O Lord Jesus, hast opened the eyes of our mind, and hast made us rich in all knowledge. We sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, but Thou didst cause Thy glory to shine upon us, so that we are now walking in Thy light and may in time enter eternal bliss in

heaven. For this we justly laud and praise Thee with thankful hearts and tongues, on this sacred day; and we shall sing Thy grace and goodness as long as we have our breath. We furthermore pray Thee, O most faithful Redeemer, cause Thy grace to abound in us, keep us and our descendants in the blessed knowledge of Thyself to the end of time, and so guide and lead us by Thy Holy Spirit that we no longer, like the heathen, walk in the vanity of our minds and according to our own lusts, but rather lead a godly life, as the children of life, and serve Thee in due obedience as our king all the days of our life. And since Thou, O dearest Jesus, didst so powerfully deliver us from the kingdom of darkness and didst so mercifully receive us unto Thy kingdom of grace, let us also be and remain blessed citizens of Thy kingdom of joy and honor in heaven and heirs of Thy eternal glory, for Thine exalted name's sake. Amen.

6

Prayer on the Day of Purification

O LORD JESUS, Thou exalted and beloved Son of God, I thank Thee with all my heart that Thou didst not only become a true man in my behalf,

but didst also place Thyself under the law for my sake, and at Thy presentation didst have the offering of purification presented for Thee, in order that I might be redeemed from the curse of the law and my soul cleansed from its base impurities. For this I acknowledge myself in duty bound to present myself to Thee as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. But since I cannot do this of myself, I pray Thee, dearest Savior, do Thou sanctify me by the Holy Ghost and Thy innocent blood, that I may henceforth earnestly guard against all manner of sin, keep my body and soul unspotted and serve Thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life. O dearest Jesus, grant that I, following the example of godly Simeon, may embrace Thee with the arms of true faith in all days of trouble and distress, in every fear and anguish of conscience; that I may press Thee to my heart, yea enclose Thee in it and nevermore let Thee go hence. Let mine eyes ever be directed towards Thee, Thou welcome Light of the world, and see in Thee their only joy. Kindle within me the light of the knowledge of Thy holy will and a hearty confidence in Thy precious merits, and grant that I may cause this to shine forth before men by my good works. O Thou brightness of glory dispel all darkness of ignorance and malice from my mind, and let me believe aright, live holy and

die happy, as did Simeon of old. And when the end of my life draws nigh, O blessed Redeemer, hold me safe in Thine arms of love and grace, that Satan may not snatch me out of them. Grant unto me with Simeon a joyful departure, and bestow this grace upon Thy servant, that I may in peace leave earth and enter heaven, and with all the elect, behold Thee face to face, in everlasting joy. Amen.

7

Prayer on Day of Annunciation

Awake, my soul, and rejoice in the Lord Thy Savior; magnify the Highest, who has so faithfully fulfilled his promise and sent His Son into the world. Exult and be glad, for God Himself, out of love to thee, became man and thy next kinsman. Who can sufficiently praise His mercy and loving kindness? O Lord, what is man that Thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that Thou considerest him? O dearest Jesus, I heartily thank Thee that in the hallowed womb of Thy mother, Mary, Thou didst so intimately unite Thyself with our human nature, and in this assumed humanity didst reconcile us with Thy heavenly Father. O

my Savior, Thou didst thus humble and humiliate Thyself, that I might be exalted; Thou didst become a human being, that I might become a child of God, Thy brother (sister) and beloved bride. Thou hast descended to us from Thy throne above to have me participate in Thy great glory in heaven. How couldst Thou have shown greater love to me? O dearest Jesus, I heartily rejoice in this and know for certain that I am in Thy grace; for Thou canst not hate Thine own flesh and blood, nor be wroth at it. Though I am sinful and unholy, I take comfort in Thy holiness and innocence. Though I have incensed God with my sins, I know that Thou art the Mediator between God and me, that Thou wilt appease His wrath, and wilt save me from all ills that threaten me because of my transgressions. O Jesus, my brother, although I have deserved death and damnation, Thou art able to give me life and salvation. Where my Brother, my flesh and blood, reigns, I too hope to be and remain eternally. To this end, O dearly beloved Savior, lend us Thine aid, for the sake of Thy most holy incarnation. Amen.

Prayer on Maundy-Thursday

O DEAREST JESUS, I thank Thee with all my heart in the council of the godly and the congregation of the Lord, that before entering death Thou has remembered us, Thy Christians, so well, in spreading before us so bounteous a table for our souls. I magnify Thee, most merciful Savior, with all my capabilities and energies, that Thou didst not only give Thyself a sacrifice for my sins and the sins of the whole world, dying on the cross, but that Thou dost also nourish us poor mortals with Thy body and blood in Holy Communion, thereby appropriating unto us all those gifts of grace and the benefits Thou didst acquire. O Lord, the bread which we break is the communion of Thy body given for us on the cross; and the wine we drink at Thy altar is the communion of Thy precious blood, shed for us throughout all Thy painful sufferings. In what manner indeed have we deserved to receive such great proofs of Thy goodness? Who are we that Thou dost draw so nigh to us by uniting with us so closely that Thou art and ever wilt remain in us and we in Thee, as members of Thy body. What return can we make to Thee for taking so deep an interest in our souls, cleans-

ing them from all transgressions and consequent condemnation and applying to them Thy perfect obedience, merits and righteousness, yea giving Thine own self as a pledge of their salvation. O dearest Jesus, even as Thou didst in the Holy Supper establish a memorial of Thy wonderful gifts to us, so this Sacrament shall be a constant memorial in my heart of Thy love and mercy. As oft as I shall eat of this bread and drink of this cup, I will proclaim Thy death, and tell in thankful strains what Thou hast done for me. Oh grant, my Redeemer and Savior, that by means of this blessed food and drink I may be strengthened more and more in my faith, be joined to Thee inseparably, gain strength for a godly life upon earth, and be positively assured of the eternal life of joy in heaven; all for the sake of Thy holy merits. Amen.

9

Prayer on Good Friday

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Thou innocent and spotless Lamb of God, who hast suffered the ignominious death on the cross for us, and wouldst have us ever be mindful of this: we again, from the inmost of our hearts, thank, praise, and magnify Thee, that Thou hast redeemed us poor sinners by

the price of Thy holy sufferings and death, and wast obedient to Thy heavenly Father even unto the death on the cross. Thou didst also shed Thy precious blood to wash away and blot out our sins, and didst give Thy life for us, that we might be safe from eternal death. O faithful Savior, how much Thou hast suffered for us! What unspeakable torture and pain Thou didst endure in body and soul, that we might be exempt therefrom forever. Oh, Lord Jesus, Thou patient Lamb of God, which takest away the sins of the whole world, we confess that we have caused Thee all this labor and Thy death with our manifold and grievous sins. Be gracious and merciful unto us, and let not Thy bitter and painful sufferings and death be in vain for us. Grant us grace that we may be mindful of this all our days, heartily promise and thank Thee for the same, and that by the contemplation of Thy pains and crucifixion we may crucify and mortify all fleshly lusts and evil desires of our corrupt flesh. And because Thou hast suffered for us, grant that we take up our cross, which we daily and richly deserve with our sins, and follow after Thee. For Thy name's sake, may we patiently endure all things, and in the blessed hereafter be and forever remain with Thee and all Thine elect in heavenly joy and bliss. Amen.

Prayer on Eastertide

WE RENDER Thanks unto Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, Thou exalted Prince of Life, that Thou didst give Thyself for us into death, out of divine love, and didst offer Thyself to Thy heavenly Father as a propitiation for our sins, thereby delivering us from the power of death, devil, and eternal damnation. In proof whereof Thou, the Prince of Life and the Lord over death, didst raise Thy head on the third day, rise from the dead, and didst bring forth righteousness, innocence and eternal life. We pray Thee, grant us grace, that, by the working of Thy Holy Spirit in us, we may take deep-felt joy and comfort in Thy death and resurrection, thereby quiet our conscience and overcome all fear of death. And let Thy resurrection be to us a cause and incentive to good works and fruits of righteousness, that we, as Thy people, may be willing to worship Thee in the beauty of holiness. Grant that we may daily die unto sin, crucify and slay the old Adam with his lusts and desires; that, on the other hand, we may arise spiritually, begin to live in righteousness, walk in a new life, purge out the old leaven, and become a new leaven. Grant furthermore, we beseech Thee, that we may look

forward with comfort and joy to the resurrection of our deceased bodies, which on the last day shall come forth again by virtue of Thy resurrection, and may we then with body and soul enter Thy kingdom of heavenly glory and grandeur. Amen.

11

Prayer on Ascension Day

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Thou eternal High Priest and King of all thrones, Thou didst upon finishing on earth all that was written concerning Thee, enter the heaven of glory in and according to Thine exalted human nature, and didst sit down at the right hand of God on the throne of majesty; still Thou art everywhere and Thy kingdom reigns supreme. But we are still pilgrims in this vale of tears, in a world that lies in wickedness and which Thou didst overcome, as Thou hast said. Where now is the way that takes us safely through to Thee? How shall we, O Lord, find this way unless Thou, by Thy Spirit, dost teach us and by Him dost lead us on this way and keep us thereon?

O Lord, this world passes away with its lust and all its brightest glory is as transient as the day that was yesterday. Besides, our stay in this world

lasts but a few days, and these pass by more rapidly than the water current. Oh, lead us on the way to heaven, to Thy glory, where we shall be with Thee forever. Behold we die one by one and we pass away like a shadow. But we are prone to take it lightly; each one walks in his own way, as it seems right to him. Do Thou render our heart certain, that we walk upon none other road than the one that leads to Thee and to Thine imperishable glory.

O Lord, Thou dost sit at the right hand of majesty in heaven, to save us for ever and to make us happy in Thy kingdom. Be Thou mindful of this even when we are not mindful of ourselves, save us mightily by Thy power, and give us heavenly bliss, not for our sakes, but for Thine own sake. For the kingdom we are to inherit is Thine; Thine is the power to lead us into it; and Thine shall forever be all honor and glory, when we, Thy redeemed, shall be happy in Thy kingdom. Amen. Hear us, for the sake of Thine eternal love and mercy. Amen.

Prayer on Day of Pentecost

O LORD GOD, Who didst on the day of holy Pentecost visit and endow the hearts of Thy faithful so graciously and richly, do Thou pour this same Spirit of Thine like a fruitful rain upon our dry and famished hearts, refresh Thy heritage and comfort the miserable. Come, O Holy Spirit, and grace us with Thy manifold gifts, that we may truly know and extol the great deeds of God done through Christ Jesus, that also we may speak, praise, and spread Thy word with new tongues. Enkindle us with the fire of Thy benign fervor, burn out all internal vileness, together with all fleshly lusts and desires. And in order that we may serve our God with true earnestness and zeal, in fervency of faith and spirit, illumine us with the light of Thy truth.

O Thou God of peace, unite our hearts with the bond of peace, that we may live with each other in peace and unity, in humility and meekness. O Thou, God of patience, give us patience for the time of our sojourn, and perseverance unto the end.

O Thou, Spirit of prayer, awaken our hearts, that we may lift them and also holy hands up to

God, calling upon Him in every trouble. And since we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, do Thou, O faithful Intercessor, make intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. O Thou, gentle wind, do Thou cool and refresh our hearts when in fiery trials, be our protection and shelter in the day of trouble, our help in distress, and our comfort in reverses.

O THOU MIGHTY GOD, Come with Thy comfort to the weak, teach the wretched Thy way, help the fallen, guide the erring and hold them with Thy right hand. O Thou eternal Light, our Salvation and comfort, come and be our light in darkness, our salvation in life, our comfort in death, and lead us on an even path to life everlasting, that we may praise Thee, Holy Spirit, together with our heavenly Father and His beloved Son, our only Savior, and magnify Thee with new tongues on that true Pentecostal day above for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer on the Festival of Holy Trinity

O THOU Incomprehensible, eternal God, Thou King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone hast

immortality, and dost dwell in a light to which no one can approach: we thank Thee in humility of heart, that Thou hast left Thy realm of light to reveal Thyself to us as the One God in Three Persons. But since this deep mystery of the Holy Trinity far transcends all our thoughts and conceptions, we pray Thee above all, to make our reason, which is wise in its own conceit, subject to your obedience, and do not suffer the foolishness of our reason to oppose Thy wisdom. And do Thou imprint on our hearts this living and confiding knowledge, that Thou art Three and One, in order that we may cherish this truth as a precious treasure over against all error and may, in deepest humility, revere Thee, O Triune God, with like honor, as revealed in Thy Word.

Grant unto us, O Holy Father, to know that Thou dost originate from no one, but hast begotten Thy Son from eternity and dost cause the Holy Spirit to proceed from Thee and Him; furthermore, do Thou grant us to know that Thou hast given Thyself unto us as our Father, so that, in childlike obedience and confidence, we consecrate everything to Thee that is Thy work in us. O Lord Jesus Christ, Thou eternal Son of God, do Thou reveal Thyself to us as having from eternity been begotten of Thy heavenly Father, the brightness of His glory and the image of his being, Light of Light

and very God of very God. May we realize that out of love to us Thou didst become our brother, and hast redeemed us by Thy obedience, suffering, and death, to the end that in Thee we may learn to know the Father aright and through Thee come to Him, enjoying the fruits of Thy redemption, here in righteousness and holiness and hereafter in the communion of Thy glory. O Lord God Holy Ghost, enlighten our souls to know that Thou didst proceed as the essential Breath from the Father and the Son from eternity, true God and a true person, and that Thou dost labor faithfully at the work of our sanctification. O do Thou zealously continue the same by enlightening us, purging us, urging us to perform good deeds, comforting us and preserving us, so that by Thy operation we may, when our time comes, appear perfectly holy and pure before the throne of Thy glory.

For Thine eternal majesty and glory revealed to us in Thy Word, for all the grace and the benefits Thou hast bestowed upon us, we and all Thy creatures do render unto Thee, O Holy Trinity, praise, honor, thanks and glory. Amen.

Prayer on Day of John the Baptist

O GRACIOUS GOD And Father in heaven, to Thee I render most humble thanks with heart and mouth, that, by giving Thy dear Son, Thou didst visit us so graciously, and didst raise up our Lord Jesus as a horn of salvation in Thy Church, to the end that we should grasp it in true faith, take comfort, joy and bliss therefrom, and make it our stay in trouble and death. Like thanks do I owe Thee, O Lord Jesus, Thou day-spring from on high, that Thou didst by Thine appearing so brightly illumine us, poor blind people, who sat in darkness and the shadow of death, and didst guide our feet upon the way to eternal peace. And no less do I thank Thee, O God, Holy Ghost, that Thou didst raise up Saint John as a prophet of the Most High, and through him hast given us the knowledge of salvation, which consists in the forgiveness of sins. O Holy Trinity, give me grace that I may duly recognize these great benefits, and show my lasting gratitude to Thee not only in words, but by a godly life, serving Thee all the days of my life in holiness and righteousness, which is pleasing unto Thee, until in the eternity to come I shall see Thee from face to face and shall join the grand

choir of the elect in their never-ending hymns of praise and thanks. Amen.

15

Prayer on the Day of the Visitation of Mary

O benignant God, heavenly Father, how great is Thy grace, how unsearchable Thy mercy toward me a poor sinner. Thou didst send Thine only Son and have him assume human nature, that I might, by means of the blessed fruit of a virgin's womb, receive the divine blessing and continually be a blessed one of the Lord. For this great benefit I render heartfelt thanks, and at the same time I humbly pray Thee to enkindle my heart with the fervor of the Holy Spirit that my soul may magnify Thee and my spirit may always rejoice in my Savior. Oh, why should I not with due thanks extol Thee, why should not my spirit take delight in Thee! Thou, O kind God, hast done great things unto me, not only in my creation and preservation, but also in the redemption of my soul, which Thy dear Son Jesus Christ has rescued from death, which he wedded to himself and promised to love eternally. O Lord, look upon me also in future with the eyes of Thy mercy as Thou didst look up-

on the Virgin Mary, and let Thy grace be ever with me, then I, too, will praise and magnify Thee for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer on St. Michael's Day

O FAITHFUL GOD, Thou Protector and Keeper of the human race, Thou Lord of hosts, before whom stand a thousand times thousand, and whom ten times one hundred thousand are serving, by whom all things are created, the visible and invisible, the thrones and dominions, how ardent is Thy love to men, in that Thou dost assign to them from their childhood up Thy holy angels, those constant humble, kind, God-loving, obedient, true, and good spirits, those brilliant, heavenly flames of fire, those valiant heroes and and holy watchmen, who encamp round about such as fear Thy name. These our angels at all times see the face of our Father in heaven and stand before Thy throne, and by the means of these angels Thou dost protect the three estates Thou hast ordained on earth. O Thou faithful God, what is man that Thou esteemest him so highly? We render Thee eternal praise and thanks for this blessing that Thou hast set forth Thy min-

istering spirits, to minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation. We pray Thee, Thou wouldest charge Thine angels to keep us on all of our ways, that they may bear us up on their hands, lest we dash our foot against a stone; that we may tread upon the lion and adder, and trample under foot the young lion and dragon. Drive far from us all evil spirits, who are murderers and liars from the beginning. Preserve us from their wrath and rage, from their lies and blasphemies, from their wiles and deceit, that they may not sow tares among the wheat in our hearts. Restrain the lying spirits in the mouths of all false prophets, the spirit of murder in tyrants, the spirit of vanity and of avarice in the family. Let Thy holy angels at all times accompany us as they did Jacob; let them protect us as they did the prophet Elisha, let them bring us bread and water, yea, provide us with the horse and chariot of fire, as they did Elijah, that is to say, let them give us wholesome counsel and comfort. Let them be with us in our trials, as they were with the three men in the fiery furnace and with Daniel in the lion's den; let them rescue us from our perils, leading us out of them as they led Lot out of fiery Sodom, Peter out of prison and Paul out of the shipwreck. Let our country, home, family, and all we possess be under the protection of Thy holy angels, as was the house of Job, so that

the enemy can make no inroad upon us. Let us live in Thy fear and love, Thy Word and Gospel, into which the angels desire to look. Give us true repentance in our hearts, so that the angels in heaven may rejoice over us. Kindle ardent prayer and the praise of Thy name in our hearts, that we may perform an angel's office in singing with them: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God of Sabaoth. And finally do Thou have our souls borne by angels into Abraham's bosom, and on the day of resurrection make us like unto the holy angels, that we may be in their company forever. Amen.

Prayer on Reformation Festival

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who didst come into this world to call sinners to repentance and to enlighten all men unto life eternal, we praise Thee with our whole heart and thank Thy great goodness and mercy, that Thou didst not only enter at this place and in this church and congregation with Thy divine Word and the holy Sacraments, and didst purge out the leaven of papistic doctrine and idolatry, but, that Thou hast also redeemed us poor sinners from the realm of darkness, called us to

the light of Thy holy Gospel and translated us into the kingdom of grace.

O Lord Jesus, we are not worthy of the least of Thy mercies and Thy truth, but we pray Thee with an humble heart to remain with us also in future with the divine Word and the holy Sacraments, that Thy holy name may be known among us, be alone feared and honored and we all live according to Thy divine pleasure and serve Thee. But whatever we have done amiss against Thee and Thy holy Word, in being disobedient to the Gospel, do Thou graciously forgive, and do Thou not, because of our sins, take from us this soul-saving treasure, but preserve it in its purity with us and our descendants. Yea, Lord Jesus, preserve unto us Thy Word for it is our hearts' comfort and joy.

Protect and keep us and Thy whole Christian Church—particularly Thine Evangelical Lutheran Church—from all error, unbelief and other harmful doctrine. Restrain all enemies, persecutors, and blasphemers, and be Thou our reliance, our strength, our shelter and shield, that the gates of hell may not prevail against us. Especially do we pray Thee, Lord our Redeemer, to enter the house of our heart, to enlighten us by the Holy Ghost, to cleanse our hearts and graciously to grant, that we walk worthy of the Gospel, and continue to the end of our days in the truth once known and con-

fessed. O Lord Jesus, let our souls obtain Thy salvation, so that we, being saved through Thee, may forever behold Thee in Thy kingdom and Thy great glory. Amen, Lord Jesus, Amen.

18

A Prayer on the Day of Church Dedication

LORD GOD, Heavenly Father, Thou didst at this place gather unto Thy dear Son Christ Jesus, through Thy Word and Holy Spirit, a church and holy congregation among us, and hast preserved us against the devil and all enemies, yea, against the gates of hell: we pray Thee, O good and faithful God, let us and our dear children continue in the possession of this valuable and precious treasure that we, being instructed in the saving truths, may grow and increase in these, until we shall receive our everlasting habitation in the kingdom of Thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with Thee and the Holy Ghost is blessed forever. Amen.

Prayer on Harvest Festival

O GIVE Thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, and His mercy and truth endure forever. Thank the God of heaven, because His goodness endureth forever. Let Israel now say, that His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron now say, that His mercy endureth forever. Let them now that fear the Lord, say, that His mercy endureth forever.

O what fears we entertained, lest the fruits of the field be destroyed; what cares and misgivings, lest we be deprived, before our very eyes, of the bread God has bestowed upon us in these hard times! But it is the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not; they are new every morning. Now thank ye all our God, who wondrous things hath done at all places, who from our mother's arms sustained our lives, and blessed us with countless gifts of love. O God, give peace to Thy land, prosperity and happiness to every estate. O Lord God, heavenly Father, who dost grant a holy courage, good counsel and right works, give that peace to Thy servants that the world cannot give, that our hearts may cling to Thy commandments, and we, by Thy protection,

may pass our time quietly and secure from our enemies, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, our Lord. Amen.

And now, O Lord, we realize and confess with thankfulness of heart, that Thou didst give us our early and latter rains in due season, and didst keep faithful watch over our harvests each year. Thou hast watered our ridges abundantly, and hast settled the furrows thereof: Thou didst make it soft with showers: Thou didst bless the springing thereof. Thou hast given increase to our grain and growth to our land. Thanks, honor, praise, and glory be unto God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

We also pray Thee, beloved God and Father, from the inmost of our hearts, give unto us Thy Holy Spirit, that we may receive with thankfulness what Thou hast bestowed upon us, and sanctify it with Thy Word and prayer. Grant that these temporal blessings be devoted to Thy honor and applied to the support of ourselves and our churches and schools, including our needy neighbor, and at the same time that the harmful and despicable love of money and the cares of this life be most diligently avoided. Protect this place and the whole country from the dangers and distress of war, from hostile invasions and devastations. Give

to our beloved government the spirit of wisdom, of counsel, of power and strength. Confirm and preserve among us the peace we value. Let us pass the days of our sojourning in true knowledge of Thy holy name and in Thy fear; also in health of body, peace, and unity, and finally do Thou grant unto all of us eternal salvation, for Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior's sake. Amen.

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Prayer on Mission Festival

O ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou didst create the world and all that is therein, and hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth: Thou art not far from every one of us; for in Thee we live and move and have our being. Thou who in times past didst suffer the Gentiles to walk in their own ways, but now commandest men everywhere to repent and with Thy grace dost visit the hearts of the Gentiles: We pray Thee, let the light of Thy countenance shine upon us, that Thy salvation may bud forth at all places, and the honor of Thy name extend to the ends of the earth. Look down from heaven upon the distress of so many people (nations), who are still

sitting in darkness and the shadow of death, ignorant of their divine origin and lying under the cruel tyranny of the devil. The light that lighteth all men that have come into this world, hath not risen for them. They are walking in the vanity of their minds. Their mind is shrouded in darkness. They are estranged from the life that is of God, by reason of the ignorance that is in them and the blindness of their hearts. The God of this world has blinded their minds, and the common enemy of souls has captured them according to his pleasure.

Do Thou grant, O merciful God, that we profit from the misfortune of others to our salvation, and on the one hand deplore the miserable condition of blindness, wherewith Thou hast smitten the heathen, but on the other hand apply the light given us of grace to better purpose for our sanctification. Let the light of the Gospel rise unto those that as yet are far from Christ, the true sun, and are groping in the dense darkness of idolatry. Do Thou, by the attractive voice of the Gospel bring these scattered sheep back into Thy spiritual fold. Give unto us shepherds that do not rule harshly and severely over the sheep nor devour their substance and clothe themselves with their wool, but who minister unto the weak in the spirit of love and gentleness, who restore the sick, bind up the wound-

ed, bring back the erring, seek the lost, and in their life and walk present themselves as living examples for the flock. And since the Gospel message of the love of God as revealed in Christ is the only means of reconciling men with God and returning the lost sheep to the fold of Christ: Do Thou grant that all who go forth to preach the Gospel to the heathen, proclaim this word of reconciliation with wisdom from on high, that they overcome all obstacles with undaunted courage, and, setting aside all selfish ends in administering so sacred an office, that they seek naught else than the honor of Thy name and the advancement of Thy kingdom. Grant that they clearly recognize the mystery of the cross to be the center of our evangelical doctrine, and not pretend to know anything among the Gentiles, save Christ Jesus and Him crucified, but extol Him as the hope of glory and the fountain of salvation, through our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. Amen.

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FROM CASPER NEUMANN'S "CREAM OF PRAYERS"

Prayer of Thanks

O LORD GOD FATHER, Son and Holy Ghost,
Thou art the almighty God of heaven and earth,

and in Thee we live, move and have our being. Thou didst decree that man should live of bread and for that reason didst, at the beginning, make the earth fruitful by Thine almighty word; and after the days of the flood, Thou didst promise that, while the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest should not cease. Behold, O Lord, this law of Thine, once established, still obtains; Thou dost continue to crown the year with Thy goodness. Thou causest grass to grow for the cattle, and grain for the good of man. Thou bringest forth bread out of the earth and dost fill our hearts with joy and gladness. How wisely Thou didst arrange all things, O Lord! And how great Thy goodness towards us is, who are not worthy of Thy bread. And how wonderfully infinite Thine omnipotence is in greatly multiplying the seed that decays in the soil. And it is this Thy unsearchable wisdom and Thine unspeakable goodness, grace, and omnipotence, which visited our land also this year. Men had sown their seed in hope, and Thou hast hitherto blessed the fruits of the field and hast permitted us to see the times when every one reaps and garners into his barns what Thou hast given. O Lord, Thou God of riches, all that men harvest is indeed Thine, for we cannot, of ourselves, cause anything to spring forth out of the earth, so if we get much or little, it is nevertheless more than we

deserve. Thanks, therefore, be to Thy holy name for each and everything, that Thou hast given us in our fields this past year. Thou alone art the God that didst sustain us from early infancy and dost bestow on us all manner of blessings. Wherefore to Thee alone be praise, honor and thanks, now and in eternity. Amen.

Petition

AND WE Now beseech Thee, O beneficent Father, do not take from us again in Thy wrath, what Thou hast already bestowed in grace. Thou Thyself hast said in Thy word, that rain is not seemly in harvest; so do not suffer the blessing of the field, which Thou hast shown to our eyes, to be destroyed by adverse weather. And after the harvest has been gathered in the barns and bins, preserve it from danger of fire and water, from thieves and dishonest stewards, from usurers and unscrupulous grain speculators, and from all else that might deprive us of Thy gifts or destroy them. Furthermore, let us not forget that all things we receive come from Thee and are Thine. For this very reason do Thou grant that we may never be dissatisfied with what Thou givest; that we may not waste any of it in wantonness or frivolty; that we may not, moved by greed, envy and hard hearted-

ness, close our hearts against our needy neighbor, nor show distrust toward Thee by doubts and cares that what Thou hast bestowed would not suffice. But since we shall need Thy providing care also in future, do Thou not suffer our fields to remain untilled, because of Thy wrath, that they may not lie idle and become unfruitful when being neglected. Do Thou prevent whatever, after this harvest, might hinder the tilling of the fields. And that we may not have any years in which we sow, but do not reap, grant, O Lord, that neither frost nor heat, neither excess of wet or dry weather, neither insects nor anything else destroy the seed in the ground which is our hope of future sustenance.

Prayer

Be Thou with us, O gracious and loving Father, and preserve unto us our daily bread, which during the present harvest Thou dost everywhere distribute. Above all things bestow favorable weather with continued sunshine, so that the grain may mature and be saved. Bless the garnered grain in the bin and when being prepared for our nourishment; bless it when being partaken of, and grant us life and health, peace and quietness, so that whatever Thou dost bestow may not only

give strength to the body, but also be profitable to the soul, and thus this temporal blessing of Thine redound doubly to our welfare. Make us mindful also, when Thou bestowest all these things, of our obligations to Thee, and grant that we recognize all Thou givest to be the result of Thy goodness, so that we may render Thee heartfelt thanks, be saving with our means without stinting our needs, be liberal to others, and, in short, devote all we have of Thee to Thine honor alone. Do Thou continue to visit our land with Thy grace; do Thou develop and enrich it. Give warmth to the soil by the rays of the sun, and water to the field by the fruitful rain; give drink to the furrows, and moisture to the plowed ground; give Thine increase to what shall be sown, so that the land may continue to yield and our fields be abundant in crops, to the end that we may shout for joy and sing Thy praise forevermore.

Intercession

O LORD, Thou indeed art the God who daily openest Thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Therefore, do Thou also during the time of this present harvest provide for all people, and let every one be fed with food convenient for him. Let each one be attentive to his

calling that the sluggard may not sleep in the time of harvest and neglect the best interests of himself and family. Do Thou moreover sustain those who in the sweat of their brow gather their bread and ours; refresh them when tired, and after harvest let each one with his kin enjoy in good health what his field brought forth, that all of us may delight in Thy goodness. Do Thou also grant that the rich do not place their trust in their well-filled barns, forgetting that their souls may be summoned, when they least expect it, and that another may inherit what they had gathered. O Lord, remember the poor, who have nothing to harvest; make our hearts willing to gather for them, and reward those that allow them to glean on their fields, or give them of their surplus. In short, bless the scant supply, that it may suffice; and so rule that abundance may not be misused for bad purposes. Preserve peace and quiet in all lands, that the strangers do not come and devour our harvest. Do Thou everywhere prevent failures, hard times, and famines. Furthermore we pray Thee to ward off from us whatever might render our livelihood difficult. Rather let each one be contented and satisfied with his lot, that both rich and poor may recognize Thy power and may praise Thee forevermore.—Finally, O Thou Savior of all men, we ourselves are Thy spiritual handiwork in Thy Church, and Thou art

the Lord of the harvest, therefore we pray Thee to send laborers into Thy vineyard, and cause also Thy harvest of men to be abundant at all places; grant that everywhere good seed be sown on Thy fields and that the pure doctrine be preached among all Christians. Preserve the world at large from the tares strewn broadcast by the devil. Convert those that sow in unrighteousness and reap in sorrow, or sow unto the flesh and of the flesh reap destruction. But do Thou sanctify every one of us, that we may be of a Christian mind, sow unto the Spirit, and of the Spirit at one time reap life everlasting. Yea, when this whole world shall be fully ripe for the last harvest, then do Thou grant that we, as pure as wheat, bound in sheaves be gathered into Thy barns and be preserved in heaven unto everlasting joys. There shall we, according to Thy promise, reap without ceasing, and rejoice as one rejoices in harvest, with joy unspeakable. Hear us, O God, and grant all we ask, for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.



APPENDIX II.

HYMNS

Morning Hymn

God who madest earth and heaven,
 Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
 Who the day and night hast given,
 Sun and moon and starry host,
 Thou whose mighty hand sustains
 Earth and all that she contains:

2 Praise to Thee my soul shall render,
 Who this night hast guarded me;
 My omnipotent Defender,
 Who from ill dost set me free:
 Free from danger, anguish, woe
 Free from the infernal Foe.

3 Let the night of my transgression
 With nights darkness pass away:
 Jesus, into Thy possession
 I resign myself to-day.
 In Thy wounds I find relief
 From my greatest sin and grief.

4 Grant that I may rise this morning
 From the lethargy of sin:
 So my soul, through Thy adorning,
 Shall be glorious within;
 And I at the judgment day
 Shall not be a cast-away.

- 5 Let my life and conversation
 Be directed by Thy Word;
 Lord, Thy constant preservation
 To Thine erring child afford.
 Nowhere but alone in Thee
 From all harm can I be free.
- 6 Wholly to Thy blest protection
 I commit my heart and mind.
 Mighty God! to Thy direction
 Wholly may I be resigned.
 Lord, my Shield, my Light divine,
 O accept and own me Thine!
- 7 Lord, to me Thine angel sending,
 Keep me from the subtle Foe;
 From his craft and might defending,
 Never let Thy wanderer go,
 Till my final rest shall come,
 And Thine angel bear me home.

Evening Hymn

- Since now the day has reached its close,
 And sunlight shines no more,
 In sleep the toil-worn find repose,
 And all who wept before.
- 2 But Thou, my God, no rest dost know,
 No slumber dims Thy sight.
 Thou hatest darkness as Thy foe,
 For Thou Thyself art light.

- 3 O Lord, I pray remember me
 Throughout the shades of night,
 And grant to me most graciously
 The shield of Thy great might.
- 4 Turn from me Satan's tyranny
 Through many an angel-arm,
 Then shall I be from danger free,
 And safe from every harm.
- 5 I know the evil I have done
 Doth cry aloud to Thee;
 But yet the mercy of Thy Son
 Hath full atoned for me.
- 6 Him I present Thee as my Bail,
 While suppliant at Thy feet;
 With such assurance I'll not fail
 Before Thy judgment seat.
- 7 And therefore now I close my eyes,
 And sleep with tranquil breast;
 Why waste the time in fears or sighs?—
 God watches o'er my rest.
- 8 Away, vain, idle thoughts, depart!
 Roam not my soul abroad!
 For now I build within my heart
 A temple to my God.
- 9 Should this night prove the last for me
 In this dark vale of tears,
 Then lead me, Lord, in heaven to Thee
 And my elect compeers.

- 10 And thus I live and die to Thee,
 Thou Sabaoth strong, indeed!
 In life and death Thou helpst me
 From every fear and need.

Cross and Comfort

Commit whatever grieves thee
 At heart, and all thy ways,
 To Him who never leaves thee,
 On whom creation stays.
 Who freest courses maketh
 For clouds, and air, and wind,
 And who care ever taketh
 A path for thee to find.

- 2 The Lord thou must repose on
 If thou wouldst prosper sure,
 His work must ever gaze on
 If thine is to endure.
 By anxious care and grieving,
 By self-consuming pain,
 God is not moved to giving;
 By prayer must thou obtain.

- 3 Thy grace that ever floweth,
 O Father! what is good,
 Or evil, ever knoweth,
 To mortal flesh and blood.
 What to Thine eye all-seeing,
 And to Thy counsel wise
 Seems good, doth into being,
 O mighty Prince arise!

- 4 For means it fails Thee never,
 Thou always findest a way,
 Thy doing's blessing ever,
 Thy path like brightest day.
 Thy work can no one hinder,
 Thy labor cannot rest,
 If Thou design'st Thy tender
 Children should all be blessed.
- 5 Though all the power of evil
 Should rise up to resist,
 Without a doubt or cavil
 God never will desist;
 His undertakings ever
 At length He carries through;
 What He designs He never
 Can fail at all to do.
- 6 Hope on, thou heart, grief-riven,
 Hope, and courageous be,
 Where anguish thee had driven
 Thou shalt deliverance see.
 God, from Thy pit of sadness
 Shall raise thee graciously;
 Wait and the sun of gladness
 Thine eyes shall early see.
- 7 Up! up! to pain and anguish
 A long good night now say;
 Drive all that makes thee languish
 In grief and woe away.
 Thine 'tis not to endeavor
 The ruler's part to play,
 God sits as ruler ever,
 Guides all things well each day.

- 8 Let Him alone—and tarry,
 He is a Prince all-wise,
 He shall Himself so carry,
 'Twill strange seem in thine eyes.
 When He, as Him beseemeth,
 In wonderful decree,
 Shall as Himself good deemeth,
 O'errule what grieveth thee.
- 9 He may, awhile still staying,
 His comforts keep from thee
 And on His part delaying,
 Seem to have utterly
 Forgotten and forsaken
 And put thee out of mind,
 Though thou'rt by grief o'ertaken,
 No time for thee to find.
- 10 But if thou never shrinkest,
 And true dost still remain,
 He'll come when least thou thinkest,
 And set thee free again,
 Thee from the load deliver,
 That burdeneth thy heart,
 That thou hast carried never
 For any evil part.
- 11 Hail! child of faith, who gainest
 The victory alway.
 Who honor's crown obtainest,
 That never fades away.
 God in thy hand will give thee,
 One day the glorious palm;
 Who ne'er in grief did leave thee,
 To Him thou'llt sing thy psalm.

12 O Lord, no longer lengthen
 Our time of misery,
 Our hands and feet to strengthen
 And until death may we
 By Thee be watched and cared for,
 In faithfulness and love,
 So come we where prepared for
 Us is our blessed abode.

Beloved, "It is well!"
 God's ways are always right;
 And perfect love is o'er them all,
 Though far above our sight.

2 Beloved "It is well!"
 Though deep and sore the smart,
 The hand that wounds knows how to bind
 And heal the broken heart.

3 Beloved "It is well!"
 Though sorrow clouds our way,
 'Twill only make the joy more dear
 That ushers in the day.

4 Beloved, "It is well!"
 The path that Jesus trod,
 Though rough and straight and dark it be,
 Leads home to heaven and God.

The Christian Life

- Am I a soldier of the cross,
 A follower of the Lamb?
 And shall I fear to own His cause
 Or blush to speak His name?
- 2 Must I be carried to the skies
 On flowery beds of ease,
 While others fought to win the prize,
 And sailed through bloody seas?
- 3 Are there no foes for me to face?
 Must I not stem the flood?
 Is this vile world a friend to grace,
 To help me on to God?
- 4 Sure I must fight, if I would reign:
 Increase my courage, Lord!
 I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,
 Supported by Thy Word.
- 5 Thy saints, in all this glorious war,
 Shall conquer, though they die;
 They see the triumph from afar
 With faith's discerning eye.
- 6 When that illustrious day shall rise
 And all Thine armies shine
 In robes of victory through the skies,
 The glory shall be Thine.

Death and Eternity

Abide with me! fast falls the eventide;
 The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
 When other helpers fail, and comforts flee.
 Help of the helpless O abide with me!

- 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
 Change and decay in all around I see;
 O Thou who changest not, abide with me!
- 3 Not a brief glance I beg, a passing word,
 But as Thou dwell'st with Thy disciples Lord:
 Familiar, condescending, patient, free,
 Come, not to sojourn, but abide with me.
- 4 Come not in terrors as the King of kings,
 But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
 Tears for all woes, a heart for every plea;
 O Friend of sinners, thus abide with me!
- 5 Thou on my head in early youth didst smile.
 And, though rebellious and perverse meanwhile,
 Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee:
 On to the close. O Lord, abide with me!
- 6 I need Thy presence every passing hour:
 What but Thy grace can foil the Tempter's power?
 Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
 Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me!
- 7 I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless:
 Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
 Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy victory?
 I triumph still, if Thou abide with me!

- 8 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,
 Shine through the gloom, and point me to the
 skies:
 Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain
 shadows flee;
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!
-

I Fall asleep in Jesus' wounds,
 There pardon for my sins abounds;
 Yea, Jesus' blood and righteousness
 My jewels are my glorious dress.
 Wherein before my God I stand,
 When I shall reach the heavenly land.

- 2 With peace and joy I now depart,
 God's child I am with all my heart;
 I thank thee, death, thou leadest me
 To that true life where I would be.
 So cleansed by Christ I fear not death.
 Lord Jesus, strengthen Thou my faith!
-

“Forever with the Lord!”
 Amen! so let it be;
 Life from the dead is in that word,
 'Tis immortality.

- 2 Here in the body pent,
Absent from Him I roam,
Yet nightly pitch my moving tent
A day's march nearer home.
- 3 My Father's house on high,
Home of my soul! how near
At times to faith's fore-seeing eye
The golden gates appear!
- 4 Ah! then my spirit faints
To reach the land I love,
The bright inheritance of saints,
Jerusalem above!
- 5 "Forever with the Lord!"
Father, if 'tis Thy will,
The promise of that faithful word
E'en here to me fulfill.
- 6 Be Thou at my right hand,
Then I can never fail;
Uphold Thou me, and I shall stand,
Fight, and I must prevail.
- 7 So when my latest breath
Shall rend the veil in twain,
By death I shall escape from death,
And life eternal gain.
- 8 Knowing as I am known,
How shall I love that word,
And oft repeat before the throne,
"Forever with the Lord!"

APPENDIX III.

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

Prayer of a Mother for Wayward Children

ALMIGHTY GOD, Merciful Father, attend to the petitions of Thine handmaid, and forgive me all my sins for the sake of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ. Graciously hear me as I pour out my heart before Thee in my great sorrow. For beside Thee there is no God to help me, I know of none other, to whom I may flee for succor. In Thee is my hope, Thou art my God from the day of my birth. Lord, Thou knowest the cause of my sorrow, before Thee is all my desire, and my sighs are not hid from Thee. Thou beholdest the grief which fills my heart on account of the disobedience and wickedness of my son (my child). As a precious gift from Thy hand did I receive him (it) and to Thee did I again consecrate him (it) in Holy Baptism. In heartfelt prayer have I daily commended him (it) unto Thee, and have ever sought to exhort him (it) to every good deed, (in order) that he (it) might walk uprightly before

Thee, and be guided by Thy Word. But how shamefully has he (it) departed from the way, and suffered himself (itself) to be misled by the devil and evil companions. From a vessel of honor, hallowed to Thee, he (it) has become a vessel of wrath, and must needs perish forever, unless Thou wilt graciously cleanse him (it) with the blood of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, and save his (its) poor soul. O Lord, look upon him (it) in mercy, for the sake of the most perfect obedience of Thine own dear Son; remember not the sins of his (its) youth, nor his (its) many transgressions. Take his (its) poor soul into Thy tender care, that it may not perish, but may be plucked as a brand from the burning fire, and saved from eternal damnation.

O Jesus, precious Savior, Thou hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Therefore, Thou didst become obedient to Thy Father in heaven unto death, even the death of the cross, and didst render satisfaction for the disobedience of all the children of men. Grant, I beseech Thee, that Thy suffering and dying for this wicked one may not be in vain, but do Thou guide him (it) by Thy Spirit, that he (she) may learn to see the error of his (her) way, consider well the punishment now and hereafter, in store for wayward children and

impenitent sinners, and (may) turn to Thee in true penitence.

Lord God, Holy Spirit, who dwellest in the hearts of men and rulest them according to Thy good pleasure, Thou hast taught many a prodigal son to see and bewail his wicked course, moved him to turn again to his Father, and become a new man. Unto Thee do I cry; do Thou incline the heart of my wayward son (child) to that which is good, renew his (its) mind, lead again his (its) feet into the path of true godliness, and turn him (her) (it) that he (it) may henceforth walk the way of Thy commandments to do them. Grant, that he (it) forsake the company of the wicked, and like the prodigal son, may ere long come back and say: I have sinned against heaven and before Thee, and am no more worthy to be called Thy son; in order that I with all my household may rejoice and say: Let us make merry and be glad, for this my son (child) was dead and is alive again, (and) was lost and is found. Likewise there will be joy in heaven among the angels of God over this sinner; then will I also with all my powers praise and extol Thee for this Thy mercy, in time and in eternity.

O Lord, Thou triune God, have mercy upon me, hear my prayer, comfort and strengthen me in my great affliction. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation for the honor of Thy holy name. Amen.

Prayer of a Mother before being Delivered of a Child

LORD GOD And Father in heaven! The time has now come when, by Thy will, I must travail in labor. To Thine Almighty care do I resign myself with body and soul. Deal with me according to the good pleasure of Thy Fatherly will, and as Thou knowest it to be good for me. O Lord Jesus Christ, when Thou hadst instituted Thy Holy Sacrament, Thou didst in Thy parting words to Thy disciples, speak of the labor and anxiety of the woman about to be delivered, and also of her joy after the birth of the child, in order that Thou mightest comfort Thy Christians in their tribulations. I beseech Thee, by Thine agony and bloody sweat, by Thy death on the cross, strengthen me with the help and comfort of Thy Holy Spirit, in order that also I, after the anxiety and pain is past, may be made glad at the sight of the new-born babe, and the deliverance from my pain. But, if (indeed) the hour of my death has come, and I must give up my life in the travail, I pray Thee with all my heart not to let Thy bitter suffering and death be in vain for me, a poor sinner. My husband and my helpless little children I commend to (Thy care) Thee, who art called the Father of the orphans.

For I know that only while I live, am I to (have) care of them. Therefore, into Thy Fatherly hand do I entrust and commit everything; as Thou wilt, it is all well. Should longer life be vouchsafed me, I will serve Thee as long as I am in this world. If I now die, it is Thou who takest me in my appointed station to eternal life. To Thee, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, be glory, praise, and honor, now and forevermore. Amen.

Thanksgiving after a Happy Birth

O GRACIOUS And merciful God, Thou, who through Thy gracious dealing with us, hast shown that Thou art the only true God, who callest into being that which is not, and raisest up from the dead, Thou hast graciously given us a living child. For this we should, are in duty bound, to thank Thee as did aforetime Elkanah and Hannah, Zacharias and Elizabeth, and others, whom Thou didst wonderfully and graciously bless with children. Accordingly we now offer Thee our humble praise for such unspeakable grace and gift, and pray Thee, Thou wouldst grant us grace, that this child with others which Thou mayest bestow unto us, may grow up in Thy fear and nurture, and in good health; that

it may increase in virtue unto the end, that it may be pleasing unto Thee and unto us a source of joy without shame and disgrace, and we may here and hereafter honor and praise Thee, our Lord and Creator. Amen.

Prayer of a Husband at the Birth of a still-born Child

DEAR FATHER In Heaven, since it hath in Thy wisdom pleased Thee to take this, our child out of this life at its birth unto Thyself, we bow in humble submission to Thy will. And we doubt not that Thou hast heard our earnest prayer and for the sake of Thy dear Son, hast graciously taken it to Thyself in heaven, where it is preserved from all the evil which it must have endured in this wicked world. Moreover, I thank Thee, with all my heart that Thou hast preserved the life of my beloved wife in this present travail, and hast snatched her, as it were, out of the very jaws of death, and given her anew to me and my helpless children. Grant, O Lord, that she may recover her strength which she had well nigh lost in this great labor. Then will I praise and glorify Thy great mercy here and hereafter, through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of a Mother who has given Birth to a Deformed Child.

O GRACIOUS, Merciful God, I thank Thee with all my heart, that Thou hast with Thine Almighty hand delivered me from danger to my body and life, and hast graciously relieved me of my burden. But because Thou hast given me a deformed child, and wouldst thereby uncover to me my spiritual frailty and the deformity of my corrupt nature, together with the heinousness of my sins, help me, Thou faithful God, that I may see these my weaknesses and henceforth guard against sin. Do Thou grant spiritual health and cleansing to my child through the water of Baptism, and in compensation for its bodily deformity, give the fear of God, and other good gifts and virtues, and thus make it meet for heaven. Grant also to me Thy grace that I may not loathe this child, on account of its deformity, but may love it as the creature of Thy hand, cherish it and bring it up as becometh a Christian mother. This I ask for the sake of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer before being Subjected to an Operation

MY LORD And my God, to whom shall I flee for succor in this my great distress, which Thou hast allowed to come upon me, save to Thee, who hast commanded, "Call upon me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver thee and thou shalt glorify me!" Thy hand has smitten me, Thy hand will also make me whole again. (Thou hast cast me upon the bed of pain and brought me nigh unto death; Thou canst raise me up again that I may live before Thee.)

I confess before Thee that I have with my many sins, deserved not only Thy Fatherly chastening, but also eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry that I have offended Thy Majesty, and have not kept Thy holy Law. But I know that Thou, O Father of mercies, hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked may turn from the error of his way and live. Therefore, do I now turn to Thee with a contrite spirit, and pray Thee to forgive all my sins. Be merciful unto me, O Lord, for I am desolate and forsaken; deliver me from all evils that afflict me. Cast me not off according to my deserts. O God, be not angry with me, enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for whom Thy Son hath made atonement.

I firmly believe that if any man sin, we have an Advocate with Thee, Jesus Christ, the Righteous, and He is the propitiation for our sins. In Him is my hope, on His atonement and intercession do I fully rely in this hour to obtain grace and mercy from Thee. Of this am I persuaded, that I am and will remain Thy child, because Thou hast given the Spirit of Thy Son into my heart, who crieth without ceasing, "Abba, Father," and intercedes for me with groanings which cannot be uttered. Therefore, because Thou art my God and Father, Thou wilt not forsake Thy child, even as a Father pitieth his children.

O Thou that healest Israel, bless the means which I am about to use in Thy name to regain my health, and grant to the physician (and to the surgeon), wisdom and skill for the difficult work which he is to do, direct his hand and grant a happy issue. Endow me, Thou God of patience and comfort, with Christian patience and fortitude, that I may pass through this ordeal with calmness.

And if, according to Thy counsel, I must die during this approaching operation, grant that I may be gathered with the elect into life everlasting. Keep me in true faith in my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and in my last hour, grant that I may think of nothing, save His Cross and bitter death, and may enter through His wounds into the

Paradise of Heaven. May Thy Holy Spirit bear witness with my spirit, that I am a child of God and an heir of Heaven. May my last words be those with which Thy dear Son closed His lips in death: "Father, into Thy hand I commend my spirit." Amen.

Prayer for a Happy Death

CHRIST, Our dear Lord and Savior, grant us grace that we may not fall into temptation, but keep us pure and blameless in the simplicity of the true faith, and deliver us from all evil through a happy departure from this vale of tears, from the kingdom of Satan and the wicked world. To Thee be thanks and praise, together with the Father and the Holy Ghost forever. Amen.

Prayer of a Dying Person for his Family and Friends

MERCIFUL GOD, Faithful heavenly Father, Thou art bringing my life to a close, and wouldst take me into Thine eternal kingdom in Heaven, where I would fain be with Thee. But since I am leaving my family and my friends in great sorrow, I pray Thee for the sake of my Intercessor,

that Thou wouldst comfort them richly in their tribulation. Turn not away from them, withdraw not Thy tender hand from them, but cause them to see and feel that Thou canst care for them, as well without me as through me. May they in due time follow after, into the happy home above, where we shall altogether with one accord praise and adore Thee without end. As Thou gavest them to me, so do I entrust them to Thee again; faithful Father, Thou wilt deal with them more tenderly than these sorrowing ones can think. I cast all my care for them upon Thee, Thou wilt abundantly provide for them. Amen. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



APPENDIX IV.

PRAYERS FOR CHILDREN

I. Morning

a. I thank Thee, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray Thee that Thou wouldst keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please Thee. For into Thy hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Thy holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

b. O Holy, blessed Trinity,
 Divine, essential Unity,
 God Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
 Be Thou this day my Guide and Host.
 My soul and body keep from harm,
 O'er all I have extend Thine arm,
 That Satan may not cause distress,
 Nor bring me shame and wretchedness.

c. Holy Jesus, every day
 Keep me in the narrow way,
 And when earthly things are past,
 Bring my ransomed soul at last,
 Where it needs no star to guide,
 Where no clouds Thy glory hide. Amen.

2. Evening

a. I thank Thee, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast graciously kept me this day; and I pray Thee that Thou wouldst forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong and graciously keep me this night. For into Thy hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Thy holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

b. Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to keep;
If I should die before I wake,
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to take;
This I ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.

c. Jesus' blood and righteousness
My jewel is and festive dress,
With this shall I 'fore God prevail
When I the heavenly portals hail.

d. Lord Jesus, who dost love me,
O spread Thy wings above me,
And shield me from alarm!
Though Satan would devour me,
Let angel-guards sing o'er me,
"This child of God shall meet no harm!"

My loved ones, rest securely,—
From every peril surely
Our God will guard your heads.
May He sweet slumbers send you,

And bid His hosts attend you,
 And golden-armed, watch o'er your beds!
 Amen.

- e. Lord Jesus, Thee I live,
 Lord Jesus, Thee I die,
 Lord Jesus, Thine I am,
 Living or dying, Lord. Amen.

3. Before Meals

a. The eyes of all wait upon Thee, O Lord, and Thou givest them their meat in due season; Thou openest Thy hands and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Amen.

b. Lord God, Heavenly Father, bless us, and these gifts which we receive from Thy bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

- c. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him, above, ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

4. After Meals

a. We thank Thee, Lord God, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for all Thy benefits, who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

- b. Glory be to God most high,
 Glory to the Savior,
 Glory to the Holy Ghost,
 Now, henceforth, forever. Amen.

APPENDIX V.

Form for Emergency Baptism

All unite in the Lord's Prayer.

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The person baptizing may then say:

O Christ, at Thy command we offer this child to Thee. Receive it and let it be an heir of Thy kingdom, as Thou hast said: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God".

Those present say:

Amen.

The person baptizing says:

I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

In case of necessity for extreme haste, one may proceed at once to take water and baptize, saying:

I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

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